

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Friday, May 15, 2020 ~ Fifth Week of Easter



Readings: Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:8-12; Jn 15:12-17

Dear Parishioners:

It's easy to listen to Jesus' words in the gospel and say "You got it Lord! That's right! You da Man! Love one another – that's the key!" until we stop and have to analyze what loving one another means. Does it mean loving the neighbor who has a little, yapping rat-like dog which does its business on our lawn and it's left lying there? Does it mean loving the obnoxious "know it all" in whose very presence we'd rather not be? If I'm a Republican do I really have to love a Democrat – and vice-versa? Surely, Lord, there are limits to how much I must love, aren't there? To answer that question all we have to do is to look at a crucifix. Were there limits to Jesus' love on Good Friday? Even on the cross not only did He forgive the repentant thief crucified next to Him but He forgave His executioners. Even now, during this pandemic, when millions of Catholics around the world are denied receiving Holy Communion because public celebrations of Mass have been stopped in order to curtail the COVID-19, some people have become angry and insulting to the bishops and the governmental authorities. "Hey! This is an inconvenience to me you so-and-so and I'm going to tell you what I think and I don't care if it's keeping others safe but I'm angry and I'm going to let you know it!" What good would Holy Communion do for such a person? It'd be more of a sacrilege to receive it with those sentiments. It's holier and more Christ-like to humbly submit to the temporary restrictions for the good and welfare of others. Be patient. Be calm. This too shall pass. Jesus says: "You are my friends if you do what I command you. ... This I command you: love one another." That means that at times instead of exploding at what inconveniences us we quietly say "Lord, I don't understand this person/situation. Help me to respond with your love, difficult as that may be."

#### A Little Humor:

Goat is talking to Zebra and says: "Hey Zebra, long time no see .. How go your days lately?" Zebra says: "It's a good life. I get up in the morning. Go for a walk. Read some History. Listen to music. How about you? What's your daily routine?" Goat answers: "Get up. Check Twitter. Lose hope." Zebra says: "You could put the phone down." Goat responds: "Nope. Fused to hands."

(From Comic Strip "Pearls Before Swine" by Stephen Pastis, 2018).

#### LIFE FROM THE SEAT OF A TRACTOR:

"Live a good and honorable life, then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time."

#### QUOTES FROM A COURTROOM:

ATTORNEY: "The youngest son, the 20-year-old. How old is he?"

WITNESS: "He's 20, very close to your IQ."

#### BRAINTEASER:

A man is totally dressed in black: black shoes, socks, trousers, coat, gloves, and ski mask. He is walking down a back street with all the street lamps off. A black car is coming toward him with its headlights off but somehow manages to stop in time. How did the driver see the man? (Answer tomorrow)

Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanis, S.T.D.

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