

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Sunday, May 17, 2020 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21



Dear Parishioners:

The Kindergarten at St. Rita's School had "The Bad Box." Today we call such places "Time out." I spent more than my share of time in the "Bad Box" in Kindergarten. In Sixth Grade, in about the middle of the second semester, the teacher divided the classroom into a "good side" and a "bad side." The worse the student's deportment in class the further to the wall he got (note, there were no girls in rows 4, 5, 6, the "bad side." They were all in rows 1,2, 3, the "good side" – with a few of the boys). I never got away from the wall. I even tried, but never succeeded. In the eighth grade one day I frustrated Sr. Constance to the point that she actually had me stand in the coat closet, then forgot about me. When she finally remembered and opened the closet to let me out I was just finishing off one of my classmates lunch (which was far better than what I had brought from home that day). You see, I just liked to talk in class. I never thought I was that bad but apparently the teachers did. Talking out of turn in class was against the rules which had been set for the good order of the class. Don't forget that the classrooms in those days had 60 students per class *and only one teacher with no teacher's aide or helper!* Strict rules were the only way to keep order. No, I was never rapped on the knuckles by a nun nor did I ever, never, not even once see any form of physical punishment on a student by the nuns. Really, the nuns I had were kind and dedicated women of God for whom I still have the highest admiration. It was the lay teachers with whom I didn't get along. That's beside the point. Today's gospel talks about rules that have been established for the good order of the Church, and those rules have their foundation in the love of God for us and our response to God. When we obey the rules set down by God for us, as Jesus preached, then we can be certain to be on the "good side" of the classroom and stay out of the "bad box." When we obey Jesus' commands to love one another and treat one another with dignity and respect, the foundation of all of our rules, we can be certain of His abiding presence with us. Yeah, I know we're Americans and we have our "rights, blah, blah, blah" but if we exercise what we consider our "rights" that impinge on the rights of others do we have the "right" to live them? St. Peter says: "For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil." So let's stop whining about the current social conditions, be patient and do what is the best for everyone. If not, the "bad side" has plenty of room.

**Go Figure:** California Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzales didn't like something Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla Corporation said he was going to do, so she "Tweeted" a vile message about Musk and sent it public. If a child had used the language she did that child would have had her mouth washed out with soap. Well, maybe not today anyway. Whatever – the fact is we elect people to public office to represent us, to serve the common good and to provide leadership. If we elect people who feel free to act in such a childish and crude manners as Assemblywoman Gonzales (and she's not the only one from top to bottom in this country today) our Republic is in serious trouble. I guess that's what happens when we push God out of society.

#### A Little Humor:

You cannot unsay a cruel word. The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you from the mirror each morning.

#### LIFE FROM THE SEAT OF A FARMER'S TRACTOR:

Remember, silence is sometimes the best answer.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

#### ACTUAL COURTROOM COMMENTS:

Attorney: How was your first marriage terminate? Witness: By death.

Attorney: And by whose death was it terminated? Witness: Take a guess.

Attorney: All of your responses must be oral, Ok? What school did you attend? Witness: Oral.

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

Pastor

San Rafael Parish

17252 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92128 Phone: (858)487-4314 Fax: (858)487-1498

[www.sanrafaelparish.org](http://www.sanrafaelparish.org) Facebook: @SanRafaelCatholicChurch