

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ~ Sixth Week of Easter

Readings: Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11



Dear Parishioners:

There's never been a time when jail was a fun place to be. Today's jails/prisons, even though tough, are a far sight better than they were in the ancient world. The prisons were usually dungeons in the lowest parts of a fortress. Cells where prisoners were kept were dark, dank, smelly, filled with vermin. What little food and water the prisoners got was barely able to sustain life. In today's First Reading we see that Paul and Silas had been arrested, beaten and thrown in prison, chained to the floor, for no reason other than they were preaching the gospel. (Read the Acts 16: 16-18 and see why). Yet, while their situation couldn't possibly be any worse what were Paul and Silas doing? They were singing and praising God! Were they nuts? Not at all. They simply knew what was of true value in life and that God was on their side despite their current troubles. Are you feeling like Paul and Silas in prison, locked up with the "stay at home" mandate, unable to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion? What sense is there brooding over it? Try this: If you're reading this you have a computer. On your computer Google "Gospel Music Hymn Sing" and let your spirit soar!

The Diary of Anne Frank used to be standard reading in schools but I don't know if it still is. If you haven't read it in a while read it again. For those of you with kids at home why not read it together? Read a section of it or have the kids read the whole thing, tell the story, read about Anne Frank and her family on the computer and then talk about it. We whine and complain about being shut in these days. Put yourself in her shoes with her family, or in the shoes of Paul and Silas in prison in Philippi, or St. Peter and St. Paul in prison in Rome, or Archbishop Matulionis of Lithuania, or Fr. Walter Cizek imprisoned in the Soviet Union, or any of the thousands of Christians persecuted for their faith as they are in China and other places in the world today. Think about it. Pray over it. What we are going through is inconvenient but, all things considered, not that bad.

A LITTLE HUMOR

- A boy was reading a book with his dad and when it came for bed the boy said: "Can I have a bookmark?" The dad replied: "He's 6 years old and he doesn't know my name is Brian." (get it?)
- A nurse came into a hospital room and said to the woman lying in bed who'd been waiting for her: "I'm sorry for leaving you waiting." The woman replied: "That's okay. I'm patient." (get it?)
- After 8 weeks of shutdown a woman said: "My husband and I decided we don't want to have children. We will be telling them tonight at dinner."
- Another woman saw her neighbor out early one morning scraping the "My kid is a terrific student" sticker off her minivan. Guess that first week of homeschooling didn't go so well.

COURTROOM QUOTES

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual? WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard. ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female? WITNESS: Unless the circus was in town I'm going with male.

DAILY RIDDLE (something new)

You will find a little bit of me in a library, a place I'm not supposed to be around; People question my presence when lonely trees fall down. What am I? (answer tomorrow)

Kyrie Eleison

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