

Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Sixth Week of Easter / Feast of St. Bernardine (San Bernardino) of Siena



Readings: Acts 17: 15, 22 – 18:1; Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15

Dear Parishioners:

St. Bernardine of Siena, a Franciscan priest, died in 1444, was a zealous reformer of the Church who preached throughout Italy. He encouraged devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus and is known for his monogram HIS, so common in Catholic art and usage. It is an abbreviation of the Greek name for Jesus. St. Bernardine is the patron saint of our neighboring diocese, San Bernardino which was part of the original Diocese of San Diego from 1936 to 1977. We pray particularly today for our Catholic brothers and sisters in the Diocese of San Bernardino.

St. Paul was remarkable. He could be shipwrecked, beaten, thrown out of town, imprisoned, rejected – all for preaching the truth of Jesus Christ but nothing could stop him. In today's First Reading from ACTS he's at the Areopagus in Athens which was the main gathering place for the Athenians. It contained shops, schools and shrines to all their gods and one extra "to the unknown god." Several of us from the parish had the privilege of visiting the Areopagus several years on our pilgrimage "In the footsteps of St. Paul" but it is nothing today like it was then. Regardless, St. Paul had the courage to stand there and preach about Jesus Christ. Note, though, how he did it. He didn't criticize the Athenians for their lack of belief. He didn't condemn their "gods" or mock their religious practices. Paul took them where they were and simply preached the truth with love. In our zeal to preach the truth of Christ and the Church perhaps we sometimes overdo it. Rather than simply state our beliefs with conviction we condemn others for being on the wrong path or mistaken in their faith and practice. If you ever hear an alleged Christian (non-Catholic or Catholic) preach by tearing into or condemning others simply walk away. That person is not worth listening to. No one will ever win converts to Christ by beating others over the head with the bible or particular doctrine. If you haven't got the talents and strength of St. Paul just remember a few of the words of the hymn *There Is A Balm in Gilead*. "If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say 'He died for all'."

BACK TO MASS has to come soon. When, we don't know. However, the bishops of California have put protocols in place that would assure the health and safety of all. We will soon be putting those protocols on our parish website so that when we are allowed to come to Mass we will be ready. One thing we will need is a group of committed parishioners after every single Mass to help spray down the pews with sanitizer. We will probably need six people per Mass on whom we can depend that as soon as Mass is over they come in to the sacristy, get the gloves, spray bottles and cloths, and get to work. The number of attendees at Sunday Masses will be limited to how many can safely fit into the church or hall for the scheduled Masses with social distancing. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass will continue to be suspended until further notice for those who are ill, not feeling well, elderly and not wanting to risk going out or gathering with a larger crowd. However, to accommodate our parishioners we will increase the number of Masses. The Mass times during this uncertain time will be: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Saturday Vigil Mass – 5:00 p.m. in the church and in the parish hall; Sunday, 7:30 a.m. in the church; 9:00 a.m. in the church and the parish hall; 10:30 a.m. in the church and in the parish hall; 12:00 noon in the church. Start thinking about it now if you would be willing to commit yourself to attending one of the Masses and helping to sanitize the church or hall after Mass. Sadly, coffee and donuts will NOT be held until further notice which will most likely be several months away. This is to allow use of the hall for Mass and to avoid unnecessary public gathering. "Poco a poco" as the Italians say. "Little by little."

A Little Humor:

- A lady goes to the grocery store and buys a can of bug spray. When she gets to the check out counter she asks the clerk: "Is this good for wasps?" The clerk responds: "No. It kills them."
- A man wants to buy a new car. He looks at several and as he opens the trunk he asks the salesman: "Cargo space?" "No can do" the salesman replies. "Car no fly." (ok. Think about it for a minute. Get it?)

A Little Humor (continued):

- Zork, the space alien asks Krenz, his companion: "So how did all the earthlings die?"
Krenz responds: "They used so much toilet paper they wiped themselves out."

Life from the seat of a Farmer's Tractor:

"If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around."
"Always remember to drink upstream from the herd."

Courtroom Quotes:

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body? WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 a.m.
ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time? WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

Riddle (from yesterday)

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: Sound

Today: What is thick at the top, thin at the bottom, grows in the winter but not in the summer? (answer tomorrow)

Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanic, 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 ~ Facebook: @SanRafaelCatholicChurch