

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Friday, May 22, 2020 ~ Sixth Week of Easter  
Memorial of St. Rita of Cascia



Readings: Acts:18:9-18; Psalm 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23

Dear Parishioners:

St. Catherine of Siena is credited with saying "Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God." That's really true. Pope Francis has quoted St. Theresa of Avila by saying "God save us from sour faced Christians." After all, what have we got to be grumpy and sour faced about? Doesn't God love us so much that He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to redeem us from our sins by dying on the cross, assure of eternal life by rising from the dead and bringing us into the glorious halls of heaven? To know, love and serve God, to make Christ the center of our lives and to base our hope in Him alone is a sure cure for the spiritual blues. The joy of the Christian comes from the acceptance of Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. Jesus Himself tells us as much in today's gospel passage from John. The future looked uncertain and gloomy for the Apostles as Jesus was telling them of His impending departure from them but He also assured them that despite any grief and trouble they will encounter their hearts will be filled with joy when they come into His presence again. Yeah, sure, we don't like the lockdown, we say bad things about the governor, we think we're over-reacting to COVID-19 (which we're not), we want to go to Mass again; but there's no reason to be grumpy and get angry about all of it because this, too, shall pass. Instead of complaining consider this a time a spiritual fasting so that when we are allowed to take part in the eucharistic feast again we will appreciate it all the more. Truly, joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God. Are you a joyful person? Does your demeanor attract others to Christ or chase them away?

One person who overcame really serious obstacles in life is St. Rita of Cascia (1381-1457). As a young girl she wanted to become a nun but her father insisted she marry a man who turned out to be a violent brute who emotionally and physically abused her during their marriage, but still bore him two sons. Eventually, her husband was murdered in a bar room brawl. Rather than give in to the customary vendetta she urged forgiveness for the killers. Her two sons subsequently died and after their deaths she sought her long wished for goal of being a nun. The first time she applied to the convent she was denied because she was a widow. Never one to give up she applied again and this time was accepted and became an Augustinian nun. In her 40 years in the convent she was known for her compassionate care for the sick and became known as a wonderful spiritual counselor for the lay people who sought her guidance. She was deeply devoted to the spirituality of the redeeming passion of Christ and toward the end of her life, she received a wound on her forehead from the crown of thorns. Canonized in 1900 she is known today as the patron saint of desperate situations, especially troubled marriages. With all she endured she never lost her sense of joy in the love and presence of God.

## A LITTLE HUMOR

A surgeon walks in to the operating room and says: "Relax, David, it's just a small surgery. Don't panic." The patient lying on the operating table says: "My name is not David." "I know" the surgeon says. "I'm David."

## COURTROOM QUOTES

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people? WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight."

## THINK ABOUT IT

"You're not stuck at home, you're safe at home. One word can change your attitude and one cough can change your life." "When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people."

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