

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Friday, May 29, 2020 ~ Memorial of St. Pope Paul VI



Readings: Acts 25:13b-21; Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b; Jn 21:15-19

Dear Parishioners:

Most adults remember Pope Paul VI who was elected Bishop of Rome to succeed Pope John XXIII and who was pope from 1963-1978. Pope Paul VI was a genius of the papacy who guided the Church through very difficult times: the political and social turmoil of the 1960's, the Cold War that paralyzed the world and bringing to a successful completion and implementation of the Second Vatican Council. Oddly, to this very day there are some who claim to be faithful Roman Catholics (but really aren't – even if some of them are priests and bishops) who have nothing good to say about Vatican II or Pope Paul VI and who would love nothing more than to drive the Church back a century or more. However, while serving as the Vicar of Christ, St. Pope Paul VI kept the church from foundering in the stormy waters of social upheaval and crashing against the rocks of a hostile shore. He was a gentle, kind, bright, intelligent, prayerful, holy committed Servant of the Servants of God. It is just by chance that the Scripture Readings for today's Mass are what they are. In ACTS Paul has been arrested and imprisoned. He appeals to be tried only by Caesar, as was his right as a Roman Citizen, and not by some hostile kangaroo court. The passage from the Gospel of John is one of the most beautiful and, if read with an open heart, can bring tears to the eyes of a disciple of Jesus. Simon Peter is asked three times if he loves Jesus to which he truthfully says "yes." "Feed my lambs" is the instruction the Lord gives him after each question and response. Peter denied Christ three times and now Jesus gives Peter three chances to reconcile himself with the Lord. Both men, Peter and Paul, faced incredible odds as they went forth to preach the gospel in fidelity to Christ. They did not preach themselves. They did not push their agenda. They did not promote their personal opinions. With complete confidence in God they preached redemption and salvation by the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. St. Pope Paul VI likewise faced tremendous odds. He could have refused election as pope but this man of great faith said "yes" when the Lord called him to ministry, guiding and caring for the flock of Christ like the good shepherd he was. God has called each of us to do the same. When we hear Jesus ask "Do you love me?" How do we respond?

## QUESTIONS ABOUT RETURNING TO MASS:

1. Is it safe to return? If we follow the guidelines set by the CDC then yes, it is just as safe as going to the grocery store, the gas station, the hairdresser, the barber shop – and safer than going to a casino, the beach, a restaurant or any place else where large numbers gather. However, if you are uncomfortable about returning to Mass for any reason whatsoever you do not have to come to church. Bishop McElroy has temporarily suspended the obligation for Sunday Worship for Catholics in San Diego.
2. Why are only 100 people at a time allowed at Mass? Following CDC guidelines this is to help prevent the spread of any COVID-19 threat.
3. Why do we have to wear a face mask? We socially distance and wear a face mask to prevent the possibility of spreading germs with vaporized droplets. Again, this is a policy set by the CDC.
4. Why can't we sing at Mass? Hymns have been removed temporarily from the church to prevent any lingering COVID germs that might attach themselves to them. Congregational singing also threatens to spread the COVID germs. Already, in two separate states, choir members have become ill after practice and in one case two people died from COVID received at choir practice! CDC recommends no congregational singing until the threat/danger has passed.
5. Well then, what's the point in going to church? *Really? Seriously? Are you joking me?* Yes, singing enhances our worship but **the reason we come to Mass is to give worship, thanks and praise to God and especially to receive the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist.** [I'm surprised this question is even asked by Catholics.]
6. I will NOT wear a face mask and I insist on receiving communion on the tongue. Why can't I? [that's actually been said in some places and one cardinal is promoting it.] Oh, the density and self-centeredness of some people! Think about it. Think about it.
7. Well then, if I can't receive communion on the tongue I'm leaving this parish and not coming back [Yes, that's already been said]. Answer: Vaya con Dios, Amigo.

8. Isn't distributing and receiving communion in the hand dangerous as well; I mean a nanosecond of accidental contact might happen? Those distributing communion will sanitize their hands before and after distributing communion. They will drop the host into the hand of the recipient without making any contact so, no, it's not dangerous at all.

Please remember, we are not out of the woods with COVID-19 and we must do what we have to in order to keep one another safe. Over time, when society gets a handle on this pandemic, these restrictions will be rescinded. Until then, let's just all work together and do what needs to be done to get through this. Remember what Jesus said: "I am with you until the end of time" (Mt: 28-20).

**A Little Humor:**

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "Buy why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," the manager said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!" (Get it?)

A CCD Teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher said "Oh, very good. You get a gold star today. Now, who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" Another child enthusiastically raised his hand and said, "Verge?" Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The boy said (of course it was boy) "Well, you know, you're always talking about Verge n' Mary." (Sorry Blessed Mother. Didn't think you mind).

**Riddle Me This:**

[First of all, who's the most famous person to say "Riddle me this?"]

Yesterday's Riddle: What is worn by the foot and bought by the yard? (ANSWER: Carpet)

Today's Riddle: "The family I come from is known to be crazy; I'm good when alone and when spread I'm amazing; That's not objective, it's a matter of taste; I'm good for your health, but bad for your waist. What am I? (Answer tomorrow)

Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanis

**San Rafael Parish**

17252 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92128 ~ Phone: (858)487-4314 Fax: (858)487-1498  
www.sanrafaelparish.org ~ Facebook: @SanRafaelCatholicChurch