

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020 ~ Fourth Week of Easter



Readings: Acts 13:13-25 Psalm 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27 Jn 13:16-20

Dear Parishioners:

Maybe you've felt the sting of betrayal. Perhaps you fell in love and got married only to have the marriage fall apart some time later and end in divorce. What a heart-wrenching feeling of betrayal that must be. Perhaps you had a friend, a good friend, your best friend and then, inexplicably, you slowly grew apart over the years until that friendship just withered away. It might even be that the person who was your friend, to whom you entrusted your very heart, turned on you and you realized the friendship wasn't as deep or as honest as you had believed. The pain of betrayal can be debilitating. It can cause indescribable heartache and even engender feelings of revenge. Most importantly, though, it causes a deep sadness because the other to whom you committed yourself was now walking away. Psalm 55:13-15 echoes these sentiments and we can feel the pain of the psalmist. This appears to be what Jesus was feeling in this passage from today's gospel which continues a few verses longer in the bible than what is read here today. Jesus Himself knew the pain of betrayal. After all, being fully human as we are He had all the emotions we have. How He must have cried.

When we face the challenges of life which we can't possibly overcome ourselves we might even feel betrayed by the Lord. "I'm mad at God" we might say "because He let this happen to me." We ask where He was during our trials because we are so blinded by our tears that we can't see the Lord standing right next to us or feel His hand on our shoulder to let us know He's beside us. This must be the sentiment of so many people suffering today because of the COVID-19. Don't let the worry and grief stop you. Look at the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles and see how courageous Paul and his companions were in preaching the gospel in the synagogue of Antioch. Nothing could stop them because they knew that Jesus would never leave them or betray them. Read today's psalm and take heart. Be strong. Be courageous. Be of good cheer. What the psalmist said then is so true today.

**Ponder This:** During this difficult time when life can look so bleak, we have a lot for which to be thankful. Someone recently sent this: "There are no bombs raining on our heads. I am not a prisoner held in solitary confinement as many are. I am not a refugee trying to escape with my life. I am not standing in line waiting to fill a pot of water. I have access to fresh food and I'm not starving. I have hot running water. My country has not been ruined by years of war. I can reach my friends by phone and check in on them. My friends check in on me because they care about me. Any whiplash I feel about this strange turn of events is itself a sign of privilege. More than half of the world would gladly trade their everyday problems for the modest inconveniences I am experiencing. I may have anxious dreams but I'm dreaming them on a proper bed and I'm not sleeping on the sidewalk. By staying at home, I'm helping the planet rest. As long as I have my mind I can create, imagine, dream and not be lonely. This global crisis connects me to people around the world and reminds me of our common humanity. This is a good thing. When something tragic happens to another country next time, I will respond to it not with superiority, but with humility and recognition. I will fight for positive changes and economically just policies in my own country. I am surrounded by books. I am surrounded by love. The trees have already begun to bloom."

**A Little Humor:** An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her funeral she wrote: "They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."

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