

# Daily Message from Msgr. Dennis...

Saturday, June 6, 2020



Readings: 2 Tim 4:1-8; Psalm 71:8-9, 14-15b, 16-17, 22; Mark 12:38-44

Dear Parishioners:

In a few weeks I will celebrate my 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. It doesn't seem all that long ago in my mind, even though my body tells me differently. When I was ordained in 1977, priests ordained this long were ordained in 1934 – long before World War II! They were *old* men to me. I wonder now if I appear as old to the newly ordained as the “old guys” did to me? Regardless of age, there isn't a priest alive who doesn't regularly relive the promises he made at priesthood to be of service to Christ and His Church. Oh, we might not always do such a great job. We can get tired and cranky and then upset people by what we say or don't say, do or don't do. Of course, there are those for whom Jesus Himself wouldn't be adequate, but we do the best we can.

Yesterday, in a very toned down ceremony due to COVID-19, Bishop McElroy ordained two new priests for service in the Diocese of San Diego. Only a few priests were allowed to attend because of the restrictions on numbers placed by the large gathering protocols. I was one of the priests fortunate enough to be present, specifically invited by one of those being ordained, Fr. Manuel del Rio. I first met Fr. Manny when I became pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in 1988. He was in the Third Grade! ☹️ Don't think that didn't make me feel old! After High School Fr. Manny enlisted in the Marines, then he studied Fire Science, served as an EMT on an ambulance crew and finally answered the Lord's call to priesthood. I have kept in touch with him and prayed for him during his time in the seminary and yesterday, when Bishop McElroy imposed hands on him thus ordaining him a priest, I must admit to having tears in my eyes not only because it was that particular man being ordained but simply *because* a man was being ordained. I quietly muttered a prayer: “Thank you, God.” I have yet been to an ordination to the priesthood when my reaction was not the same. I recall my own vocation and it renews my own commitment to serve the Lord and ask for His grace to work beyond my faults and weaknesses in order to be a good shepherd of His flock.

Thank God that at least two men he has called answered “yes” to that call and have committed their lives to the service of His Church. The world and the Church are vastly different today than they were 43 years ago and I do not envy those being ordained today. However, I have every confidence that if they keep their hearts open to the “yes” they gave to Christ's call they will be good, holy, effective pastors of God's people. Even though there has been so much radical change over the past four decades, the call of Christ to care for His people has not changed. In the words of St. Pope Paul VI: “The priesthood today means the ability to hear the world crying out for help, the voice of the innocent who are without peace, without leaders, without help and without love. ... It means the strength to silence the flattering voices of self-seeking, it means an understanding of the hard, marvelous mission of the Church which today is trying harder than ever to make people see who they really are.” Thank God the call is still being answered, and bless, O Lord, Fr. Manuel del Rio and Fr. Raymond Napuli who were ordained yesterday!

## A Little Humor:

The First Communion Teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the psalm. Little Tommy was excited about the task – but he just couldn't remember the psalm. After much practice, he barely got past the first line. One the day of their First Holy Communion the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation. Tommy was really nervous, but figured he'd memorized the most important part. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone on the ambo and said proudly: “The Lord is my Shepherd --- and that's all I need to know.”

Remember when meals were offered on airline flights? Well, It was mealtime during one of those flights and after the flight attendant listed the meal choices she asked one of the passengers what he wanted. The passenger asked; “What do you suggest?” The Flight attendant looked at him and replied: “I suggest you eat before you get on the plane.” (True story. It happened to the author of this Daily Message!)

**Riddle Me This:**

Yesterday's Riddle: You are on a horse, galloping at a constant speed. On your right side is a sharp drop off. On your left side is an elephant traveling at the same speed as you. Directly in front of you is a galloping kangaroo and your horse is unable to overtake it. Behind you is a lion running at the same speed as you and the kangaroo. What must you do to get out of this highly dangerous situation? (ANSWER): Wait until the merry-go-round stops and quietly get off.

AND Who was the greatest financier in the Bible? (ANSWER): Noah; he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

Today's Riddle: You can take your stick and hit me, but you can't hit my friends; that's my job and mine alone, don't scratch me at the end. What am I? (Answer tomorrow)

Where was Solomon's temple located? (Answer tomorrow)

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