

January 27-28, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

First Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

The early weeks of Ordinary Time having recounted Jesus' invitation to his first disciples to follow him more closely, now we move away from the initial invitations, to Jesus revealing his DEEPER vocational (incarnational) purpose and direction. We hear in the Gospel that 'All were amazed and asked one another, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority, he commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.' Living as we do in our '2018-immediate news' availability through social media, it is wise to recall the primitive circumstances in which Jesus existed. 'Word of mouth' was the primary method of conveying news and discoveries, the veracity of the TELLER being of greatest importance. Even two + thousand years ago, the people of Jerusalem and its environs recognized when people were whack-nuts or drunk and would easily dismiss their ludicrous babblings ...BUT....when seemingly SANE people started sharing what they had seen and experienced....that was...and is... the essence of EVANGELIZATION. Jump ahead to our present era, we rely a great deal on books, videos, podcasts and whatever to stay informed about what is going on in the world. In like manner, we easily slip into reading/hearing about a narrow slice of OTHER PEOPLE'S experiences of Jesus and vicariously looking at the world through what THEY have shared. The danger in this is we may lose the ability to discern the whack-nuts from the sane, everything is presented as being equal AND we miss out on the FULLER STORY. For example, the people in today's Gospel saw Jesus cast out demons from ONE man....and that became the 'exclamation mark' to what he had just been teaching them. They also saw that Jesus did not show up every Sabbath to cast out everybody's demons anymore than he cured everyone who was blind or sick. Even two thousand years ago, they understood that Jesus was not a circus performer...but someone with the ability to back up his words with power and authority. This became the INVITATION from Jesus to those who were willing to see and experience him with more than just their eyes and ears. All this to say....the STORIES of Jesus are meant to TEASE/INVITE us into our own conversations and experiences with Jesus...to not coast on other people's recountings (or fabrications), but to experience Jesus for OURSELVES.

On this final weekend of January, thank you for joining with our Santa Clara community as we celebrate and share our OWN experiences of Jesus. This Sunday (the 28th) is St. Francis' of Assisi's OPEN HOUSE and you are INVITED to journey up the hill to visit the campus and see what our neighborhood Catholic School looks like. If you are considering a Private Catholic education for your children...St. Francis is right up at the TOP when it comes to certification, staffing, equipment, programming and caliber. Don't forget the 'Super-Blue Blood Moon' in the night skies of the 31st....and of course, next weekend is **SUPER SUNDAY... because it is our Pastoral Services Appeal PLEDGE weekend.** Please review the material I have sent you and please come prepared to participate with initiating our efforts to FINISH the DREAM begun in 2001 (when Santa Clara was established) by constructing our permanent Church, Youth Ministry Facility and expanded Parking Lot. If you did not receive the mailings, extra copies are available on the PSA Table along the wall. Finally, even with so much occurring, please know that you are loved. FKB