

September 8-9, 2018

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Parish Ministry Fair Weekend

Isaiah 35:4-7

James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

'Say to those whose hearts are frightened: BE STRONG, fear not!'

On this weekend when we, as a parish, have an opportunity to both pray about and openly discuss the issues swirling about the newest clergy misconduct concerns, the Scripture selections are most apt. Growing comfortable with our rituals, habits and rhythms, we often forget that God is not a WHAT but a WHO. Our participation at Mass, our reception of assorted Sacraments, all of them are encounters with the WHO of our faith: Jesus Christ, who, through the Holy Spirit, leads us home to our Heavenly Father. In all of the confusion and disillusionment of these newest revelations, the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit has not been tainted nor diminished. All of our spiritual endeavors as Roman Catholics is to share the experiences we live with Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to awaken within us the awareness that we are not the only ones loved by God, that we are encouraged to open our hearts and eyes to the bigness of his creation and draw strength from one another, especially when the efforts of darkness entice us to abandon the God who has sometimes been ill-served by corrupt and broken clergy. In our Gospel selection from Mark we hear of Jesus restoring a mans ability to both hear and speak - 'He has done all things well...he makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.' The shock of criminal actions by a few tempts us to close our ears to ANYTHING...to try to live our lives in a bubble, a bubble in which the voice of darkness/evil thrive. The disappointment and anger at a clerical hierarchy that has acted poorly at best and criminally at worst, is now causing people's voices to be raised, demanding justice, demanding to be heard, demanding that those who serve as Good Shepherds EARN whatever respect people will afford them. In no way diminishing the evil and corruptness of which we have heard in these past weeks, nonetheless, the words of Scripture are still a light, still a guide even if those proclaiming them are sinners, abusers and criminals themselves. 'Be STRONG, fear not...' we will emerge from our disillusionment stronger and more right-minded than before...God is still with us.

Thank you for sharing this late-Summer weekend with our Santa Clara community. **NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT, immediately following the 5pm Mass, will be our second and final LA CENA, Parish Supper.** Reservations are necessary, please complete a reservation form this weekend, either those on the table beneath the side Bulletin Board areas or from the back page of the Bulletin. THIS WEEKEND is also our ***PARISH MINISTRY FAIR***...Santa Clara does not thrive unless our vision and life is OWNED by our community. Each of our ministries, outreaches and activities are outside and available for you to meet and see if there is a spark of shared interest...please cruise around, enjoy the snacks and let the Spirit guide you to how you can participate more fully within Santa Clara's life. See you next week at LA CENA...and remember, you are loved! FKB