

April 6-7, 2019

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

Unless we are using our thumb for the pointing instrument....‘Every time we point a finger at someone, three fingers point back at us!’ We have all heard variations on this sage counsel...to get our ‘own lives in order’ before we go judging and condemning others. Drawing nearer and nearer to Holy Week, this weekend’s Gospel of John recounts an embarrassing episode in which the Church elite (of Jesus’ day) attempted to trap Jesus in his response to the query regarding whether the woman (caught in adultery) should be stoned to death....or not (hmmm...last I heard, it takes TWO to commit adultery...what happened to the man?) In his response, Jesus endeavors to both teach us something...and to remember that, ‘but for the grace of God, there goes each of us.’ Sometimes those making the most noise, lodging the loudest complaint, writing the most critical letter, threatening the direst legal action, roiling the familial waters with their rancor...are not acting out of a heightened sense of justice or fairness but rather so as to keep everyone else off balance so that their own failings (crimes/indiscretions) will not be observable or discovered. For example, while appropriate justice will (and is already being meted out via public humiliation) to those who sought corrupt entrance to prestigious universities for their sons/daughters...have not many of us, at one time or another, sought some sort of ‘special favor’ from our assorted connections? (Even down to the embarrassing reality of some clergy frequenting restaurants, markets and stores where they know the management will comp them!) Within this weekend’s Gospel, Jesus seems unfazed by the woman’s activities...rather, he offers her a fresh start with the simple words: ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on, do not sin anymore.’ Jesus does not desire us to destroy ourselves through our own actions....NOR does he desire us to play the blame game so as to make-believe that our own indiscretions are, in comparison to others, acceptable. A good reminder...the best way to change the world is not by simply condemning everyone else but rather...in our own lives, NOT DOING what we find contemptible.

Thank you for sharing these early days of April with our Santa Clara community. Next weekend will be Palm Passion Sunday, please allow extra time for the lengthier Passion narrative as well as time for you to pluck fresh fronds from the palm branches. Holy Week follows, again, I urge/invite/request the pleasure of your company...for the experiences of Holy Thursday and Good Friday (both at 7pm) so as to make Easter Sunday that much richer of an experience. Like at Christmas, your assistance with transforming our Hall into a suitable celebration of the Resurrection is requested...simply use the FLOWER ENVELOPES at the entrances/exits and our Art & Environment Team will do all the hard work...because ‘we love you!’ Tickets for our Ladies Event on April 27th will be on sale next weekend after all the Masses...please come prepared, to purchase as the luncheon event usually sells out promptly. The Bulletin has other odds and ends, please take one with you...and whether it be January, February, March or April, you are loved. FKB