

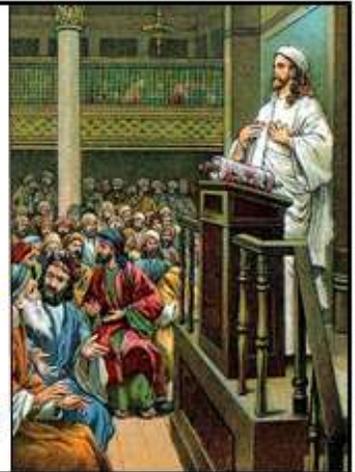
Parent Teacher Talk

January 31, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today Gospel: Lk 4:21-30

In the Gospel, Jesus revealed that the moment they - the people attending synagogue, claiming and living a faith according to certain religious precepts - were waiting for, the coming of the Messiah, this moment had arrived. So wrapped up, however, were the people in just living according to a way of life, they lost sight of the reality that there really *was* a purpose behind their religious activities. God is real, His Promises are real, He is truly involved in their (our!) history – those stories in Scripture are History of God in their (our!) ancestors lives - not fiction. Lesson for today: heaven and hell are real.



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Important Dates

Jan 29	7:00 pm	Ladies Night Out! Come relax and be pampered with your lady friends!
Jan. 30	10:00 am	Parish Day of Recollection (aka. Retreat!) - Parish Dining Hall
Feb. 3	7:00 pm	True Devotion to Mary - Join us to learn more about our Amazing Mother
Feb. 10		Ash Wednesday - Lent Begins!
Feb. 11	6:30 pm	Confirmation 8th Grade - February Gathering - Parish Dining Hall
Feb. 17	7:00 pm	True Devotion to Mary - Join us to learn more about our Amazing Mother
Feb. 18	6:30 pm	Confirmation 7th Grade - February Gathering - Parish Dining Hall
Feb. 21	6:30 pm	First Communion - First Gathering - Parish Dining Hall
Mar. 2	6:30 pm	Parish Faith Event: Symbolon! First Night, JOIN US!!
Mar. 3	6:30 pm	Confirmation 8th Grade - March Gathering - Parish Dining Hall
Mar. 9	6:30 pm	Parish Faith Event: Symbolon! Second Night - ALL are welcome
Mar. 13	6:30 pm	First Communion - Experience the Mass
Mar. 16	6:30 pm	Parish Faith Event: Symbolon! Final Night - Something for everyone

Newsy Notes:

- *Please pray especially for the RCIA candidates in these final weeks of their preparation for becoming Catholic. These final weeks they'll face spiritual hurdles – our prayers help them to persevere!!*

Attachments

- Reflection
- Email to Parents
- Separation of Church and State
- Saints Were First Sinners
- *Excerpt: Compendium of Social Doctrine*

Meditation

*"Prayer is to our soul what rain is to the soil
Fertilize the soil ever so richly,
it will remain barren unless fed by frequent rains."*

— St. John Vianney

Catechism of the Catholic Church:# 307

To human beings God even gives the power of freely sharing in his providence by entrusting them with the responsibility of "subduing" the earth and having dominion over it. God thus enables men to be intelligent and free causes in order to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for their own good and that of their neighbors.

Though often unconscious collaborators with God's will, they can also enter deliberately into the divine plan by their actions, their prayers, and their sufferings. They then fully become "God's fellow workers" and co-workers for his kingdom.

JANUARY 31, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JEREMIAH 1:4–5, 17–19

PSALM 71:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 15, 17

1 CORINTHIANS 12:31–13:13 OR 13:4–13

LUKE 4:21–30

REFLECTION

Recently a group of college students took a poll of people's favorite Bible reading. By far, 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13 was at the top of the list. I think it was a favorite because it is all about love. Love is at the root of Jesus's message to us. Love is what God offers us and calls us to be. Being a Christian is all about love. If we go through the motions and do wonderful acts, but do not have love at the center of it all, we are missing the point. We can sit in the front pew of the church each week but if we don't live out the message of Christ's love and be that love when we leave then we are living a false life. This Scripture passage is a GPS for us. If we follow it we will find love in our own lives. I think we really want to be love in the world, yet we don't always embody love in our lives. At times it is hard to not lose our temper, or to not brood, or to not be rude. At times we may find ourselves getting jealous or impatient. At times we want it to be about us. It is then that we can remember this Scripture passage and the call to love. This will help get ourselves back on track. We can try to do better. If we mess up, we get up and try again. As we "strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:31) and we continue to live a life full of love—even when it gets hard—then we are truly living out our baptismal call to be Christ's disciples in this world. It is a work in progress, but well worth the effort!



"YOUR LOVE
NEVER FAILS"

CHRIS MCCLARNEY

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=l2Th2R8h0JI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2Th2R8h0JI)

ACTION

Reread 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13. Read it again—out loud—but this time, replace the words "love" or "it" with your first name. Then think about how you can actually *be* that love this week. Try doing something this week that is all about love. Give without expecting something in return. Help your parents without making it all about you. Tell the truth instead of trying to cover up your actions with a lie. Find a way to *be love* to *others*.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- How did it feel to read out loud the Scripture about love with your name in it?
- How does it make you think about your life differently?
- What is an area in your life that you can improve so that you are more of this love?

Greetings Parents!

My youngest child has lately been joining us in bed early, early in the morning. Fortunately, he usually just climbs in next to one of us and falls asleep. When we ask why, he answer, "I just needed some extra snuggle time." We're not sure of his reason, but some part of him needs a little extra TLC, to just be near us, even though we all fall right asleep without talking.

I confess to appreciating these visits...he's the youngest and our older two don't favor being "my little boy" anymore. There is something soothing and reassuring about just being close to such innocence. We might be thinking two completely different things, but somehow we're bonding. In these moments, I think our willingness to allow him to be near us reinforces his trust in our loving concern for him.

Swapping places to consider God as the parent and myself the child, I wonder how much God relishes the moments we simply seek to be near Him – choosing this because His Presence simply means that much to us. Maybe we do it in prayer or just silence somewhere at home, at work, or in the car. Maybe we spend time thinking of Him as we sit before the tabernacle or during Adoration. Maybe it is in some quiet time in Church before or after Mass.

Wherever the location and whatever the time, I have to think He appreciates that we don't think we're too "big," too mature, too intelligent, or too sophisticated to "need" this "comfort" time with Him. I think He also appreciates our recognition of His Love for us, such that we know He truly wants us to come be near Him. He truly loves being with each one of us, each of our family members, each person we love to be with, each person we struggle to be in the same room with, and even each person we wish we didn't have to look at on the news. We trust that He loves us so much that He is happier when we seek His Presence.

And then I think how fortunate we are- how blessed! – that we can be with Him in many ways: In prayer or silence anywhere, in His Presence in the tabernacle, visibly in His Presence in Adoration, and, most amazing of all, in our bodies in the Eucharist.

Maybe we can all try to spend more time with Him simply to spend time with Him – not necessarily saying anything – just being. I can only imagine He'd appreciate it as much as I appreciate my children wanting to "just be" with me.

Hug those snuggle babies tight and may God bless you and your families!

-- Linda Bader, St. Thomas More

Separation of Church and State

It is now much debated exactly what the first amendment of the constitution means:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a [redress](#) of grievances.

What defines “establishment of religion” and what is “prohibiting the free exercise?” In the past, church-affiliated organizations and ministries could receive state money if not done so in a manner favoring that particular church because of its religious affiliation. This is becoming more heavily debated as some elements of the more highly secular-oriented society is defining the provision of *any* publicly funded resources as being unconstitutional, even if such provision occurs to multiple denominations and non-religious organizations as well. The Lutheran Church in the link below is struggling to have the traditional understanding upheld in court.

http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/scrap-tires-and-pea-gravel-supreme-court-to-hear-religious-discrimination-claim-29077/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+catholicnewsagency%2Fdailynews+%28CNA+Daily+News%29&utm_term=daily+news

Saints Were First Sinners

Excepting Jesus and Mary - every human who has lived long enough to be culpable for their actions has sinned. Some who were blessed with holiness at a young age might not have committed a mortal sin, but most people at some time committed mortal and venial sins. What makes the saints, while they lived here on earth, different from the rest of us? Nothing in particular – yet! What GREAT news?!!

What eventually distinguishes most saints is their trying to live with one goal in life – to fulfill God’s Plan for them. What is that Plan? Becoming Saints! God created us to be saints – to live with Him in heaven.

He knows, however, that we sin, but He doesn’t want our living imperfectly to prevent us from being with Him for eternity. Amazingly, this Creator-of-EVERYTHING loves every human person SO MUCH that He gave us the most incredible Gift – Redemption through the Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of His Son. OK, most of us have heard that already. But knowing our weakness, He didn’t stop there...

God pours out His Mercy CONSTANTLY! In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God’s Mercy pours out all who are open to it. Still, we find it hard to get there regularly -the devil fears people receiving this Sacrament and makes it hard whenever he can. His efforts have partially succeeded – the number of people receiving the sacrament of confession has dropped radically in the past few generations.

It is quite timely, then, that Pope Francis was inspired to declare a Year of Mercy to draw God’s people back to Him. Our relationships with others suffer when we don’t say, “Sorry” in person and don’t feel their loving forgiveness. Even more in Reconciliation, God strengthens us to better resist those “repeat” sins. Do you find yourself needing to go often? Then you are walking in the footsteps of many saints!

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/even-the-saints-had-sin-in-their-past-pope-francis-recalls-57329/>

**COMPENDIUM OF THE SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH
TO HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II,
MASTER OF SOCIAL DOCTRINE AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS TO JUSTICE AND PEACE**

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html

III. THE MANY ASPECTS OF THE HUMAN PERSON (continued)

A. THE UNITY OF THE PERSON

127. *Man was created by God in unity of body and soul*[238]. “The spiritual and immortal soul is the principle of unity of the human being, whereby it exists as a whole — *corpore et anima unus* — as a person. These definitions not only point out that the body, which has been promised the resurrection, will also share in glory. They also remind us that reason and free will are linked with all the bodily and sense faculties. *The person, including the body, is completely entrusted to himself, and it is in the unity of body and soul that the person is the subject of his own moral acts*”[239].

128. *Through his corporeality man unites in himself elements of the material world; these “reach their summit through him, and through him raise their voice in free praise of the Creator”*[240]. This dimension makes it possible for man to be part of the material world, but not as in a prison or in exile. It is not proper to despise bodily life; rather “man ... is obliged to regard his body as good and honourable since God has created it and will raise it up on the last day”[241]. Because of this bodily dimension, however, following the wound of sin, man experiences the rebellion of his body and the perverse inclinations of his heart; he must always keep careful watch over these lest he become enslaved to them and become a victim of a purely earthly vision of life.

Through his spirituality man moves beyond the realm of mere things and plunges into the innermost structure of reality. When he enters into his own heart, that is, when he reflects on his destiny, he discovers that he is superior to the material world because of his unique dignity as one who converses with God, under whose gaze he makes decisions about his life. In his inner life he recognizes that the person has “a spiritual and immortal soul” and he knows that the person is not merely “a speck of nature or a nameless constituent of the city of man”[242].

129. *Therefore, man has two different characteristics: he is a material being, linked to this world by his body, and he is a spiritual being, open to transcendence and to the discovery of “more penetrating truths”, thanks to his intellect, by which “he shares in the light of the divine mind”*[243]. The Church affirms: “The unity of soul and body is so profound that one has to consider the soul to be the ‘form’ of the body: i.e., it is because of its spiritual soul that the body made of matter becomes a living, human body; spirit and matter, in man, are not two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature”[244]. Neither the spiritualism that despises the reality of the body nor the materialism that considers the spirit a mere manifestation of the material do justice to the complex nature, to the totality or to the unity of the human being.