

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ June 21, 2020

"We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form.

At the same time, we have to recognize that violence is self-destructive and self-defeating.

Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.

Let us pray for reconciliation and peace."

Pope Francis

Offertory

Use one check if you are tithing for multiple weeks noting the dates in the memo section of your check or include your offertory envelope(s). Thank you for your support during the last three months.

Lord, This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways -- both big and small -- as they lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

We ask for wisdom and humility for fathers as they face the task of parenting.

Guide them to be outstanding role models to their children. Let them look to

Your example and to parent with patience, unconditional love, and understanding.

Help the absent fathers to see the beauty of parenthood, and how glorious it is to bring up a child. Amen

Be Not Afraid

Our commitment to Christ will be put to the test. We will hear whispered warnings and denunciations, as Jeremiah does in the First Reading. Even so-called friends will try to trap us and trip us up. For His sake we will bear insults and be made outcasts, even in our own homes, as we hear in Psalm 69. As Jeremiah tells us, we must expect that God will challenge our faith in Him, and probe our minds and hearts, to test the depths of our love.

"Do not be afraid," Jesus assures us three times in the Gospel. Though He may permit us to suffer for our faith, our Father will never forget or abandon us. As Jesus assures us today, everything unfolds in His Providence, under His watchful gaze -- even the falling of the tiniest sparrow to the ground. Each one of us is precious to Him. Steadfast in this faith, we must resist the tactics of Satan. He is the enemy who seeks the ruin of our soul in Gehenna, or hell.

We are to seek God, as the Psalmist says. Zeal for the Lord's house, for the heavenly kingdom of the Father, should consume us, as it consumed Jesus (John 2:17). As Jesus bore the insults of those who blasphemed God, so should we (Romans 15:3).

By the gracious gift of himself, Jesus bore the transgressions of the world, Paul tells us in Romans 5. In rising from the dead, He has shown us that God rescues the life of the poor, that He does not spurn His own when they are in distress. In His great mercy, He will turn toward us, as well. He will deliver us from the power of the wicked.

That is why we proclaim His name from the housetops, as Jesus tells us. That is why we sing praise and offer thanksgiving in every Eucharist. We are confident in Jesus' promise: that we who declare our faith in Him before others will be remembered before our heavenly Father.

Dr. Scott Hahn

The Mission God Has Planned for Us

The love of Christ is still with us during these difficult times. With respect, His love is not limited to the walls of church buildings nor weekly Mass attendance. We need the sacraments, and they have returned in some Dioceses, but what has God been trying to do in us during this time? His love in us grows when we relinquish our grip on our own lives and turn more to Him.

Perhaps you would agree that it would have been preferable to come to this deepening of relationship and longing for God under different circumstances. Nevertheless, now that we find ourselves here, let us ask, "What shall we do now?" With the world beginning to emerge from this quarantine, we should ponder a few questions and intentionally apply ourselves to not be the same after this crisis. Let us look particularly at our family life, our faith, and our own interior life.

Now we come to the essential question: What of our own interior life? Whatever your situation, do not let this time pass without a deep examination of your own relationship with God. In a healthy way, ponder your own death. Ask yourself if you knew you had only so much time left, what would you do? Then begin doing that right away. Do not get caught up only in external actions or reconciliation with estranged family members -- as good as these may be. Pray that the Holy Spirit deepens your prayer and gives you wisdom to live a life of deeper connection with the living God. ~ Father Agustino Torres, CFR

Oh Lord, have mercy on us, that it has taken this for us to long for the Eucharist, to closely evaluate our relationship with You, to pray with family and friends like never before.

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

Mother's Day often seems to get more attention. What is a hidden, quiet talent of your own Father? Mothers, ask your child what ability their father has that is not commonly known. Suggest sharing it.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

Jesus says, "Do not be afraid" three times in the Gospel and reminds us "all concealed secrets will be revealed." Do not be afraid to acknowledge problems in your family. If they remain "hidden in darkness" they will "destroy body and soul." Healing, understanding, and hope are found only in the Light of openness . . . "Do not be afraid."

Dominican Retreat Virtual Programs

The Dominican Sisters have cancelled their in-house programs through July 12. They are currently offering the following virtual programs, which can be accessed via Zoom:

** *How many losses have you had since March?* We have all had to cope with a drastic change in our lives. One day we were stuck in our "normal"; the next day there was no "normal". We have all lost our sense of security and have had to adapt to a new way of being. Where has God been in all of this? An opportunity to sit, reflect, and pray about our losses and what God maybe saying to us.

Wednesdays, June 24 & July 29, 7-8 pm.

Cost : \$10 for one session or \$15 for both

Presenter: Rev. Thomas Konopka, MDiv, LCSW

** *Daily Bread: The God of Ordinary Time* ~Weeklong Virtual Preached Retreat for Women and Men. Jesus teaches us to pray for daily bread, the food of ordinary time. Ordinary time calls us to holiness to find God in the stuff of everyday, and to rejoice in the commonplace. We will explore Jesus' teaching on this topic and perhaps our own history. July 6 thru July 12, 10 - 11 am.

Suggested offering: \$20/day or \$130/whole retreat.

Presenter: Sister Kitty Hanley, CSJ

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

"Terror on every side!" (Jeremiah 20:10) "Fear no one." (Matthew 10:26) There is much to fear these days. How do you calm your fears? Talk about how you comfort (or would like to comfort) each other.