



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee October 2023

Ongoing Formation 2

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Last month we reflected on the fact that the Liturgy is the source of our ongoing formation as disciples. This month we will focus on the very heart of the Gospel, what is called the kerygma. What is the central truth that is at the core of our lives as people of the Word?



Pope Francis describes the kerygma in this way: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (The Joy of the Gospel, 164).

For many Christians, this is just something about Jesus. They have been catechized, but they have not really been evangelized. To be evangelized is to have a personal relationship with Jesus. It is a form of friendship. This is when we become a disciple. We follow him and he becomes our teacher. For example, on the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we learned how we need to forgive. We are presented with the God of unbelievable mercy, and are called to the same kind of bigness in our forgiving. To keep rehearsing old wounds is to keep self-inflicting all over again, poisoning our souls. Jesus is a wise psychologist!

The October Sundays give us five pointers that serve to deepen the personal relationship we are deepening with Jesus: We need to listen for his voice; we are to be a fruitful vineyard; we are to be amazed at being ‘chosen;’ we are shown how to be present in the world; and we are presented with the ‘Golden Rule’ that fulfills the law. Time to check on our personal relationship!

*You want to be friends...?
with me...?*

*But that means we need to spend time...
together...
OK...!*

Thank you to Associate Judy O'Connor for this month's reflections.

October 1, 2023

Philippians 2:1-11. In today's 2nd reading we are asked to follow the way of Jesus Christ in union with others united in mind and heart. Is God's will blocked or thwarted when we act only in our own interests?

John 10:27. "My followers hear and know me, I look after their well-being" says the Lord. Jesus asks us to reorder our priorities to place His ways first in importance when dealing with others.

October 8, 2023

John 15:16. The Alleluia verse says that God has chosen you. You are special. Bear results that will be fruitful. Share your faith, and you will be blessed. Will your fruit basket be full or empty? Can we produce good fruit? Will we use excuses or bad habits to produce less than we should? Do we follow mercy or play fair?

October 15, 2023

Ephesians 1:17-18. Can we really "see with our hearts" so that we can know what our call truly is? We are all invited to God's banquet. If we are not prepared with the proper behavior or clothed with humility we can be thrown out.

October 22, 2023

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b. Do you pay attention to your job as if it were your lover, or do you pay attention to your spiritual life and family as if it mattered to your eternal life?

Philippians 2:15d, 16a. What is God's will for me, and what keeps me from following it more closely? Our faith should shine like a light in the world.

October 29, 2023

John 14:23. Alleluia verse "Whoever loves me will keep my word." The first love in our lives should be Jesus Christ. This begins with our sense of wonder and leads to opening our hearts to Jesus and to our neighbor. What sense of wonder this fall will lead us to a greater appreciation of God? Tell someone about it.