



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee September 2021

Making Connections

The Church, in this Green Time has been focusing on the Bread of Life. The life won for us on the Cross is kept growing by this Bread. It is Love's final step down into the struggle of our daily existence...to become for us what we eat.

Now we enter autumn. The harvest ripens. The leaves begin to show their colors. The days are a bit cooler. The Church gives us the Feast of the Holy Cross. On either side of September 14 are two Feasts of Mary, her birth and her sorrows. Is there any connection here? I think so.

Why did Mary have to suffer so much when she had no sin? Her sorrows are celebrated the day after the Feast of the Holy Cross. She, along with her Son, are figures for us of all those innocent ones who get caught up in the evils that plague the human family. This presents us with one of the deepest mysteries of our faith...innocent suffering.

In her wisdom, this may be why the Church presents these feasts before us in this harvest time. The crops we will harvest have been nourished by awful stuff we call manure. It is repulsive, rotten material. Yet from it we hold sweet corn, grapes from the vine, and countless other wonderful products. The readings this month present us with many healings. We get the sense that Jesus almost can't keep up with the brokenness. Maybe the Cross is his solution.

Jesus and Mary were innocent. So are many at our borders, the people of Haiti, the people of Afghanistan. So are many children in our hospitals. I believe their suffering is redeeming us, that none of it is lost to a loving God. In looking at the mystery of the Cross we are asked to believe this. Mary invites us to give witness as she did...with little or no explanation. Suffering often makes us or breaks us. Maybe we are being called to decide now...when we are clear headed, that we will stand with these innocent ones in trust when our turn comes.

*Nature's beauty fades.
The leaves fade and fall.
I listen to the news and wonder...
what will those people do after the fires...the floods?
The mystery of your cross is everywhere.
The day ends, the grieving find shelter and try to sleep.
Yet we have your promise.
We hold it tight in faith...Faithful God.*

Thank you to Sister Carmen Agbuis for the September reflections.

September 5, 2021 | Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 7:31-37

“And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged Jesus to heal him.” Are we humble enough to have someone help us to believe and trust that Jesus will listen to us and heal us in some way? If we but go to Him and ask for the help we need to deal with our daily issues and needs, we will find the strength and some healing.



September 12, 2021 | Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 8:27-35

“Jesus said to Peter, ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Peter said, ‘You are the Christ.’” Who is this Jesus for you? Can you respond as Peter does, with such deep faith? Then Jesus proceeds to warn His apostles that “the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be killed, and rise after three days.” Once we have professed our faith in whom this Jesus is for us, then how do we live out the mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection in our daily lives? Can we face our losses and see new life?

September 19, 2021 | Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 9:30-37

Jesus continued to repeat and teach His apostles that “the Son of Man is to be killed and three days later, the Son of Man will rise.” But the apostles did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question Him.

What do we understand about living the Paschal Mystery in our daily lives? Then, the apostles argued about who was the greatest among them. Jesus said, “whoever wishes to be first will be the servant of all.” Do we have to be first? Are we taken up with seeking to be honored and in the spotlight? Or do we have the Common Good in mind and are willing to serve and think of others? And think of issues that contribute to a better world? Is this kind of living part of being a servant to others?

September 26, 2021 | Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

“Whoever is not against us is for us.” Do we strive to live truthfully and integrally our spiritual relationship with Jesus?

Jesus teaches that if your hand causes you to sin, He says to cut it off. Does He really mean that literally? Is He not saying that if we have or discover some barriers or impediments to living the Gospel teachings, we should problem solve and find ways to knock down the barriers and then keep moving on our way?