



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

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Mutual Indwelling...

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THE EASTER GLOW HAS MOVED ... from an outer experience then to an inward reality now. He is no longer where he once was. He is now where we are. We shine because he has come to dwell in us by the Holy Spirit.

But we often feel we have lost the glow. In fact, we feel pretty dull. Yet feelings are not facts...we are learning that. So the Church takes us by the hand and leads us into Ordinary Time by assuring us we will have food for the journey...his very self.

This month opens with the great celebration of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ. We celebrate the wonder of the Lord's genius. "I am going to my Father...yet I will be with you always..." and he means it. It is his final step down into time/space. He becomes our food. First step...he presses our humanness with all its brokenness to himself. Second step...he dives like an Olympic diver into the cesspool of our sin and violence. Third step...he bounces up out of death to show us it will not hold us either. Then the final step...he bends down into Bread...the Bread of life. From him we learn that we too must be ready to be blessed, broken, and shared.

So we are now launched into the troubled waters of this next part of our lives. Our little boats will be buffeted by the wind and waves coming from the evening news. The Church in the Sundays of June will unfold to us what we need to remember to guide our little boat. Most of all, we need to remember that he is curled up in the boat with us, willing to be roused when things really get rough. Yes, we dwell in him and he in us. It is a mutual indwelling. We don't ever travel alone.



*Loving Lord,
You've been through it all.
You've been there...done that.
But you are no longer there, in those times of long ago.
You are now where we are
in our times.
Don't leave us orphans.
Stay with us for the day is nearly spent
and the night comes on.
Fill us with your Spirit,
That strong wind that guides our little boat;
That fire that warms what is chill, that water that cleanses;
The oil that heals, the blood that saves;
The wine that makes us drunk with love
and the dove that brings us peace.*

We thank associate Hsin-hsin Huang, PhD. from St. Louis for these reflections.

June 3 – Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

Like the Ten Commandments, God's written Word was considered rules to abide by, laws to be followed. These rules and laws demanded obedience that oftentimes incurred either rewards or punishment. Whether historically or psychologically, during the early stage of religious and moral development, rules and laws helped discern right from wrong and structure life. But then came Jesus, the embodied Word of God, who gave Himself as bread and wine. Jesus revealed that the Word of God was not to bind but rather to transform. In partaking the Eucharist, we each becomes a word of God, redeemed and made anew. Who we are and how we live communally attest to the Love that heals the broken and frees the oppressed.

June 10 – Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Gn 3:9-15; 2 Cor 4:13-5:1; Mk 3:20-35

It is at times difficult to discern, to know for sure whether the decisions we make are influenced by the Good or the Bad Spirit. Sometimes it is easy to blame others for causing us to make poor choices. "The woman whom you put here with me – she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it," Adam defended himself. "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it," Eve replied. While Jesus has conquered the ruler of the world and we are not to be afraid, we still need to continue to discern and do God's Will on a daily basis. What is required of us is to look inside ourselves, rather than point to others, for why we make certain choices, and to explore our vulnerable spots which give serpents of the world openings to tempt us into making poor choices. What is required of us is to bring our vulnerable spots to Jesus for healing and forgiveness, so next time no matter how seductive the serpent makes the offer sound, we know how to choose.

June 17 – Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

How big is a mustard seed? About 1 to 2 millimeters. Not much bigger than a grain of sand. Yet these seeds can grow nearly to 15 to 20 feet tall and wide. Such is the power of life – the potential for growth already present within the seed. All that is required is sufficient water and sun. Like a mustard seed, our faith can appear small. However, when our faith is irrigated by God's love we grow incredulously.

**June 24 – Solemnity of the Nativity
of Saint John the Baptist**

Is 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

Saint John the Baptist knew his role and mission. He was born to prepare the way for Jesus. Like a supporting actor, it takes a significant amount of humility to understand you are not the main show. Like Saint John the Baptist, we are called to prepare the way for Jesus. We are not the Messiah. We are workers inviting others to "come and see." We work behind the scene, knowing that the "real show" goes on in each person's heart and their relationship with Jesus.

