

The Paper Pulpit

(Reflections from the Pastor)

3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: In our gospel, Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well and asks her for a drink of water. Not even God could walk through the hot Galilean desert without becoming thirsty. This scene shows us a very human Jesus. No big miracle here; no casting out of devils, no miracle of turning sand into water. Just an ordinary meeting as we might encounter in our daily life. “Hi. How are you? Got any water?” But this ordinary occurrence shows us how Jesus evangelized. It shows us in miniature his whole life of preaching, discerning, reaching out, witnessing, calling people where they are, as they are. We could meditate on this gospel our whole life and have a whole method of witnessing and dealing with our brothers and sisters. This incident is priceless because it is so ordinary. And yet, as the oak in the acorn, in this incident we have all of how a Christian is to relate to others.

How about us? Do we have a mind to evangelize? Or better yet, do we have a mind to go out and see how many others we can help to know Jesus? This is a gospel of witnessing. How do we witness? Lent is a good time for us to practice our witnessing to others about what Jesus, our Lord and Savior, has done and is doing in our lives. A recent study said that 15% of Americans do not practice any religion. We all know a family member or friend who is not coming to weekly Mass. It also showed that most Catholics who return after being inactive did so because someone invited them back. The study showed that the best recruiters of inactive Church members were those who had once been inactive themselves. In other words, they were people like the woman in today's reading.

Who is one person you know to be inactive and whom you might invite back? How? If you or someone you know has fallen away from the faith, on behalf of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, I am inviting you/them back. Please pray for those who have fallen away from the faith and encourage them to come back home.

Unsure of how to share your faith? Why not come to one of our weekly bible studies hosted by Deacon Rich or I? Why not attend our parish retreat?

How about attending our parish retreat? Our parish retreat will be held Saturday, March 29th through Wednesday, April 2nd. Our Lenten retreat director is Fr. Patrick Foley. Fr. Foley will preach at all Masses the weekend of March 29th and 30th. Please make every effort to attend each evening with your family. If you can only join us for an evening or two, that is great. Come whenever you can. Other than on Sunday evening, supper will be provided each evening. So you won't even have to cook that week. There is no cost for the meals or the retreat.

The times for the retreat are:

Sunday, March 30 – 7:00 PM Presentation

Monday, March 31 – 6:00 PM Mass, 6:30 PM supper, 7:00 PM Presentation

Tuesday, April 1 – 6:00 PM Mass, 6:30 PM supper, 7:00 PM Presentation with confessions

This will be our Parish Lenten Confession Service

All CCD students are asked to attend the Tuesday evening session.

If CCD students are not available on Tuesday, please come on Wednesday.

Wednesday, April 2 – 6:00 PM Mass, 6:30 PM supper, 7:00 PM session

Teaching my dog not to jump: Many of you have met my dog, Ruger. He really is a good dog. He has the tendency to want to jump. I am trying to break him of that habit and he does pretty well, but he is not completely broken of it. I ask you to say “SIT” when he approaches you. This generally works. Under no circumstances allow him to jump. Thank you.

God's Blessings, Fr. Jim Trempe