

Corpus Christi Parish
PHONE: (250) 765-6869
E-mail: corpuschristikelowna@shaw.ca
www.corpuschristikelowna.com
March 25, 2021

Dear Parishioners;

So this week I want to take another look at the promises made to us in the opening prayer of the third Sunday of Lent where it says; "O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin..."

After Jesus descended into Hell to claim dominion over all creation and He rose from the dead, He said to His Disciples, I no longer call you servants but friends and He calls us co-heirs and co-builders of the Kingdom.

I think that until we claim our status of being the sisters and brothers of Jesus, we are always going to let sin and the affects of sin have too much control over our lives. Guilt and shame are forms of grief and they have to be lived through, but we have to be careful that we do not wallow in our sin when there is work that can be done to help us to move as quickly as we can through the cycle of sin and into redemption.

In the same way that Jesus chose to descend into Hell to save the lost, He is active in our lives wanting to bring healing to us and to those whom we have hurt or disappointed.

So when we have done something that we are ashamed of, instead of hiding from the Lord, we turn to the Lord and we take full responsibility for our choices or our inaction. We stand in the light of the Lord and we fight any temptation we might have to excuse ourselves or to shift some of the blame to others or circumstances. We could offer this prayer; "Lord, I take full responsibility for all of my choices and for all of my inaction and for all of the consequences of my life, those I know and those I do not know." And then we simply sit with the Lord. Rather than letting our guilt and shame make us hide from the Lord, we let the light of Christ be the dawn of our hope that with Jesus there is always healing and new beginnings. And then what do we do with this forgiveness?

This week we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation. We celebrate the faithfulness of God and of Mary's triumph over her fears. Like Mary when she was visited by an Angel, we trust in the promises of God and we move forward even though we may not be as confident in our own ability to succeed.

When Mary said yes to all that the Angel Gabriel was proposing, Mary had to accept that saying yes might mean being rejected by Joseph, her family and being left to fend for herself and her child on the streets. And so she took one step at a time and tried to not let her very real worries rule her.

The promises of Jesus are like the joy in the voice of the Angel Gabriel when the Angel was talking about Mary's future. They give us the hope and the courage we need to pick up our crosses and follow Jesus. And we are the followers of Jesus when we believe in the power of our redemption and when we cooperate with Jesus through our works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. And we do this work until we feel better.

Jesus tells us that He has sent us the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of our sins. And that is great but it isn't cheap. We have not been promised an easy path, but we have been promised new life if we will pick up our crosses and follow Jesus in the works that bring healing; and especially prayer, fasting and alms giving.

So I will remind you that the great work of Development and Peace needs our help now more than ever, so that our sisters and brothers who struggle with poverty will toil with hope, pride and a little less fear. Please see the bulletin on how you can help and help yourself. The following is the prayer for this year's campaign;

Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter, dialogue, justice and peace. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war. May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognize the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams. Amen.

May God be gracious to us and bless us, now and forever.

Pat Monette/Pastor