

A Message from Fr. Jim

We hear in the second reading today from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews, "For it was fitting that He, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering."

There are two very important points in the above quote. First, it is through Jesus and for Jesus that we exist. We were created by the power of Jesus and we were created for His pleasure and desire. That's how we come to be and that is our goal. Anything outside of this truth is a deception. We do not live for ourselves but we live in Christ and for Christ.

Second, Jesus though perfect as God and perfect as man conquered all things well, even that most repulsive thing we call suffering. In Jesus' suffering on the way of sorrows and in His crucifixion he became the instrument of true love, true obedience, true mercy, true self sacrifice for ones beloved.

Jesus not only speaks of loving throughout His life but He shows us what real love is. True love abandons oneself and ones desire for the very best, for the object of its love. That object of love for Jesus is two fold: God His Father, and for us, His least and degenerate brothers and sisters. It is precisely in this love that Jesus unites, or I should say reunites, the friendship God desired with men from the very beginning. So much does God love us that he makes a covenant between Himself and man.

This covenant of Love is seen throughout scripture, history, and the cosmos. It is still active and still evident in our lives.

We see images of this love, this covenant, everywhere and we are called to fulfill our side of this union with God. We fulfill this covenant by living in our own vocation; the vocation of priesthood, religious life or the vocation of marriage. These vocations are living examples of our commitment to the covenant of Love. In every vocation there are trials and crosses, this should not surprise us if we consider that Jesus' vocation consisted and contained many trials, inconveniences, disappointments, heartbreaks abandonment's, lies, deceptions, let downs, and betrayals. Yet, in all these things and through all these things, He showed us how to love perfectly with trust in His Father, endurance and perseverance to Love.

In this weeks readings we hear that in the same way that God is faithful to us we are to be faithful to one another. We are to be totally committed to love, totally committed to our husband and wife. Jesus shows us that in vocations there will be challenges to break our covenant of love, just as He was tempted to break His covenant of love. But it is in that very covenant, that commitment, that we are perfected.

May God Bless and keep all our families united in true peace and true love.

God Bless,
Fr. Jim