

## Be Not Afraid

### Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

June 25, 2017

Little Johnny is a five year old who was afraid of the dark. One day he was in the kitchen as his mother was making supper, and she asked him to go into the pantry and get her a can of soup. Johnny was afraid because the pantry was dark, and he didn't want to go alone. "But Mommy," Johnny said. "It's dark in there, and I'm scared." She asked again and explained that there was no reason to be afraid, but he persisted. Finally she said, "It's okay, Johnny. You won't be alone. Jesus will be in there with you." Johnny walked hesitantly to the door and slowly opened it. He peeked inside, saw it was dark, and started to leave in fear. But then he had an idea. He cracked the door open and called out, "Jesus, if you're in there, would you please hand me a can of soup?" It's easy for us as adults to laugh at little Johnny. His fear was unmerited, and what he did was cute. But the reality is that many of us, like Johnny, have fears that can influence our actions, sometime even to the point of being downright debilitating in our lives. And yet, our Lord tells us multiple times – including in today's Gospel – that we should not be afraid. Or to be more correct, he tells us where fear is merited and where it is not.

So let's begin our discussion of today's Gospel with a little appreciation for what leads up to it. Our Gospel is from Mathew Chapter 10, starting at verse 26. Just prior to this, starting with verse 16, Jesus had commissioned the 12 to go out to the surrounding towns to preach the Gospel, after which he made it clear to them that they would be persecuted for their efforts. He then moves into today's Gospel where he tells them essentially, "don't worry about it. Nothing can be hidden from God, so whatever they do, they will be held accountable for. What you hear from me, preach fearlessly to others." I will be with you at all times despite the difficulties you may face as individuals, as a community, as a parish.

God is aware of the times. And as the parish of Holy Trinity we are quite aware of the times we face. We have come through two years as a new parish. As Father Jim put it two weeks ago, it is one thing to mix oils and water in an opening ceremony. It is quite another to overcome the hurts, the loss, the amount of effort and stamina to become a vibrant parish. At times I think we may have been as leery and afraid as Johnny wondering how it would all turn out. I am personally thankful to all of you for the witnessing, the stewardship of your time, talent and treasure, the positive attitude of you the parishioners, the continued recognition of just how important St.

Michael School is, as we complete our second year. The staff of our parish and school, our councils and commissions, our lay ministers, our ministries, our volunteers, our various teams, our school and all here deserve a profound thank you. No it has not been easy. But here we are on this last week of June, the last week of our church fiscal year. Next week begins a new church year. So I would like to highlight first the accomplishments of this parish over the past year and secondly the plans for a future full of hope for the coming year.

### **With respect to the parish we**

- had a 14% growth in October count from the previous year, one of the few parishes to show an increase.
- had a well attended, inspiring Mission last October by Fr. Jack Conley
- baptized 20 children and one adult
- had six RCIA candidates received the Sacraments at Easter Vigil
- celebrated Confirmation and First Eucharist for 22 children
- attended March for Life with 3 youth
- introduced MyParishApp to increase communication, especially those using electronic devices

### **With respect to the school we**

- Began celebration of 100th anniversary of St. Michael School
- Introduced a new tuition collection system to streamline tuition collection
- Held St. Michael School Mass weekly with the support of Fr. Jim & area priests
- Completed our new heating system at St. Michael School which saved 45% (\$3,900) in heating costs while controlling heat
- Held 8th grade graduation

### **To promote growth in our parish we**

- Formed an evangelization committee to focus on attracting new parishioners
- Introduced children's liturgy at the 10:30 am Mass in addition to the 8:30 am Mass
- Formed the choristers, children who sing once a month
- Our men's choir sang on several occasions
- Introduced a new Easter time baptismal font made by a parishioner

### **From a financial and administrative standpoint we as the Parish and Finance Councils**

- Developed and approved a strategic five year plan which guides our councils in activities and projects

- You were very generous in exceeding past year in our Rice Bowl, baby bottle project and priest retirement
- Paid off \$40,000 loan for school heating system
- Paid off \$13,000 in past CSA debt to date
- Received the first portion of a new endowment
- Further we are certain that the current year will be in the black

**We can also be so thankful for those who have left endowments and donations as part of their legacy. This is a parish that is very much alive, very much in tune with what it means to overcome what faced us, and certainly trusting in the goodness of our Lord and Savior to protect and guide us. We are a make it happen people in a make it happen parish.**

**In the following year we plan to continue our vigorous growth through**

- Initiating a new directory- the first for our new parish in September
- Implement additional ideas from our evangelization team
- Conduct a bring a friend to church weekend in mid October
- Attend our fifth March for Life in January
- Having continuing discussion on the status of St. Mary Church at our council meetings

**With respect to our school we will**

- Complete the 100th year celebration of St. Michael School in September
- Seek reaccreditation for our school- which happens every 3 years
- Will split 3rd and 4th grades due to class size

**We have numerous projects to continue the maintenance and updating of our parish and school:**

- Will fill the cracks, seal, coat parking lot St. Michael Church, a project that will be complete in early July
- Our 6th Annual Garden Walk on July 13th will benefit the school
- We will Place cement around the shed in the playground and reshingle the shed
- Seal and paint the north wall of the gym
- Replace the gym incandescent lights with LED, cost \$4,000 with a \$2,000 rebate and savings of \$1,000 per year in energy

**Financially we are looking forward to another great year. As part of our budget we will need your support for**

- A new Jack of Spades that will start in September
- Our Traditional Dash for Cash raffle on October 7th. Tickets available by mid July.

■ Your continued generosity and stewardship

So our plans are inclusive and are following our strategic plan for both the parish and the school. We look forward to another year filled with the Holy Spirit as we face head on the challenges of continuing to become the parish that God wants us to be. May we unlike Johnny face our fears and count on the fact that God is with us and that he will provide us with the cans of soup necessary for this parish to thrive.

Jeremiah said:

"I hear the whisperings of many:

"Terror on every side!

Denounce! let us denounce him!"

All those who were my friends  
are on the [watch for](#) any misstep of mine.

'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail,  
and take our vengeance on him.'

But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion:  
my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.

In their failure they will be put to utter shame,  
to lasting, unforgettable confusion.

O LORD of hosts, you who test the just,  
who probe mind and heart,

let me witness the vengeance you take on them,  
for to you I have entrusted my cause.

Sing to the LORD,

praise the LORD,

for he has rescued the life of the poor  
from the power of the wicked!"

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**Responsorial PSALMPS 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35**

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**R. (14c) Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

For your sake I bear insult,  
and shame covers my face.

I have become an outcast to my brothers,  
a stranger to my children,

Because zeal for your house consumes me,  
and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me.

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

I pray to you, O LORD,  
for the time of your favor, O God!

In your great kindness answer me  
with your constant help.

Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness;  
in your great mercy turn toward me.

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad;  
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!

For the LORD hears the poor,  
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.

Let the heavens and the earth praise him,  
the seas and whatever moves in them!"

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

**Reading 2ROM 5:12-15**

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Brothers and sisters:  
Through one man sin entered the world,  
and through sin, death,  
and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned—  
for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world,  
though sin is not accounted when there is no law.  
But death reigned from Adam to Moses,  
even over those who did not sin  
after the pattern of the trespass of Adam,  
who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the [transgression](#).  
For if by the transgression of the one the many died,  
how much more did the grace of God  
and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ  
overflow for the many.

**Alleluia JN 15:26B, 27A**

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R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord;  
and you also will testify.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Gospel MT 10:26-33**

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Jesus said to the Twelve:  
"Fear no one.  
Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed,  
nor secret that will not be known.  
What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light;  
what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.  
And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul;  
rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy  
both soul and body in Gehenna.  
Are not two [sparrows](#) sold for a small coin?  
Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge.  
Even all the hairs of your head are counted.  
So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.  
Everyone who acknowledges me before others  
I will acknowledge before my [heavenly Father](#).  
But whoever denies me before others,  
I will deny before my heavenly Father."