

Message From The Pastor

February 19, 2021

Sometimes You Just Have To Carry It

When I was in eighth grade I had a paper route. I delivered the Paterson Evening News. It was a small route. It was about forty customers. However, the customers to whom I delivered the newspaper were far from my home. Therefore, each day I had to utilize my bike.

One afternoon, on a day each newspaper came with a lot of printed advertisement, as I was delivering them, the front tire of my bike dislocated completely off the frame. Unfortunately, as luck would have it, I was quite far from my home, with not even half of my paper route completed, when the front tire decided to be independent from the rest of the bike. So, I knew I had to pick up the front tire, my paper delivery bag with the heavy newspapers, my bike with the back tire still attached and continue on my walk. I finished my paper route that day. And, remarkably enough, prior delivery days and any delivery day thereafter, I never felt prouder to complete this one. In a strange sense, for a kid, it was like walking a type of Calvary, carrying "a cross" to a desired destination-my home.

Today is the first Friday of Lent 2021. Traditionally, each Friday of Lent, Catholics pray the Stations of the Cross. We remember Jesus walking and carrying his Cross. I wonder if Jesus felt very proud once he reached his destination which was the Hill of Calvary. He completed his carrying of the heavy Cross! Although in excruciating pain, I am willing to claim, it may have been one of the many proud moments of His life on earth to do what He did so well.

Therefore, if you have a cross, carry it well. If so, you'll be proud once you complete your journey, you did it as well as Jesus did!

And remember the wise words of Claude Pepper, "Life is like riding a bicycle. You won't fall off unless you stop pedaling. "

Peace
Fr. Marc