



## YEAR A – MAY 24, 2020

This is the weekend when we would ordinarily participate in the “in pew” part of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal which is now called “Because We Are Catholic”. The Corona Virus has changed all that. You will be contacted directly by the Development Office of the Diocese through the mail. I want to thank you for all you do to help others, especially at a time when it is not easy to do that.

Because we are still in the “Red Zone”, we can’t hear the Scripture Readings at Mass today, but we can find them on the Internet. And before the day is over, we probably will not remember their references in the Bible. I include myself.

We really don’t have to remember that the First Reading was from the Acts of the Apostles, or that the Second One is from the First Letter of St. Peter, or that the Gospel is from the Gospel of St. John.

But there is a message in them for each of us and that is what we are asked to remember. The Scripture Readings tell us that Jesus finished his mission here on earth and then ascended into heaven. We celebrated that event in his life on Thursday of last week – 3 days ago and 40 days after Easter.

Our Lord was born into our world as a little baby boy. He did not come as a conquering hero as some expected him to do. He lived a quiet life with his Mom and Step-Father in a town called Nazareth. He grew in wisdom, age and grace and at age thirty or there about, started to preach a message that upset the ruling class in the church of his time. His teaching was new wine. The old wine skins (the scribes and Pharisees – the leaders of the people) felt threatened and put him to death on a cross. He rose from the dead and 40 days later, he ascended into heaven. His mission on earth is finished. He came to serve, and he did. He finished his mission. Now we are challenged to finish ours. C.S. Lewis penned these words many years ago, “You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

So, what is your mission from God. Does it include helping others through the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Does it include being a good parent, a good spouse, a good friend, a good neighbor. Does it include being a saint. Does it include helping others to become saints. Does it include our Lord’s law of love in addition to the 10 Commandments?

Mark Twain is credited with saying, “The two most important dates in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” Jesus was born to serve. He knew that early on. Are we born for that same reason? If we choose to be his disciples, if we choose to follow him, the answer is yes. It is the only path to eternal success.

Recall the words of Thomas Merton, “We spend a lot of time, energy and money climbing the ladder to success, only to find our when we get to the top, our ladder is against the wrong wall.”

For a few moments in silence, reflect on this. Is your ladder to eternal success against the right wall? If not, you can come down and put it against the right wall. You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.