

2 Pastoral Letter

Two common phrases we often hear today are “the bigger, the better!” and “the more, the merrier!” Many corporations want to be the largest in their industry. People want to live in the biggest house, drive the biggest car and belong to the biggest church. “The bigger, the better!” “The more, the merrier!”

Today’s Gospel reading presents a contrast to that in two brief parables. They both compare the reign of God to seeds. In the first one, the seed grows slowly day by day. The second is about mustard seeds that are very small but grow large enough to give shelter and shade. Both of these parables are about big results emerging from small beginnings. A few bags of grain can produce a harvest large enough to fill a silo. A tiny mustard seed can become a home for the birds of the air.

These agricultural images are not simple about farming but about the reign of God. They both give us a word of caution. We should not identify size with significance. Bigger is not necessary better. More is not necessarily merrier. We all know how a small parish church can lose something vital when it becomes a mammoth congregation. A huge organization is not necessarily a more effective one. We often find quality products in smaller businesses.

Similarly, a majority does not necessarily decide what is right. More often than not, minorities have been the great “change agents” and carriers of truth for the rest of society. Renewal and revival have come through minorities. The abolition of slavery, the securing of civil rights, respect for human life, care for the environment, political reform, and in fact our own American Revolution have not happened through large numbers of people but through a small, dynamic and committed minority. We should not, therefore, confuse size with significance. The church with the most members is not necessarily the most effective. In fact, size can often make a community complacent, fat and lethargic.
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Clergy

Fr. Miguel Hernandez, Pastor
Fr. Martin Bui, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Don Romito, Retired Priest
Fr. Eamon O’Gorman, Retired Priest
Deacon Ken Kleckner
Deacon Jim Merle
Deacon Jorge Ramirez
Deacon Victor Valenzuela

Pastoral Staff

Amanda Hawley, School Principal
Michael Spillman, Dir. of Business Admin
Summer Pongetti, Liturgy/Adult Faith
Jerry Cates, Plant Manager
Henrietta Moreno, Administrative Asst.
Andrea Rodriguez, Receptionist
Eric Brunter, Youth Ministry
Katherine Gonzalez, Youth Ministry
Liliana Duran, Children’s Faith Formation
Paul Nguyen, Music Ministry

Baptisms

Please complete the online registration form at www.stjosephplacentia.org/baptism and you will be contacted by a Deacon.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Center office.

Funerals

Please call the Parish Center office.

Marriages

Please call the Parish Center office at least six months in advance.

7 Grow & Go

June 27, 2021 | Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24 | 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15 | Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Do not be afraid; just have faith.” It’s likely we’ve heard and seen Jesus’ reassuring words or even shared them with others. When I read the story of Jairus and his daughter, I thought of a man with whom I spoke recently. As his lungs failed him during a bout with coronavirus, doctors advised him to say good-bye to his wife and daughters before they placed him on a ventilator. “I was expecting to wake up in heaven,” he said, recalling the moment not as one of fear or panic, but of deep peace. In today’s Gospel passage, Jairus had that kind of “fearless faith” as well, placing his daughter’s life wholly in Jesus’ hands even as others in the crowd ridiculed him. When we pray or ask for God’s healing, we can’t know the outcome. But we can pray for the gifts of faith and courage, placing our lives in God’s loving hands.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

When I was a child, my aunt would always encourage us to make the sign of the cross when we passed an ambulance or accident scene. In her concern for the strangers at the side of the road, my aunt was giving us a lesson in compassion, which stands in marked contrast to the crowds who ridiculed Jairus as he desperately sought help for his daughter. The Church has a rich tradition of intercessory prayer, encouraging us to pray for the needs of others. Today’s readings remind me that we can share our faith by praying for others who are sick, dying, grieving, or struggling in some way. Likewise, we can ask others to pray for us, trusting that God will hear our prayers.

PRAY Do you ever offer to pray for someone and then completely forget? Try writing each person’s name on a Post-it and placing it on your bedside table. Other ideas: Pray the Rosary while driving or exercising, devoting a decade to each person; include prayers for others when you say Grace before meals; as soon as you offer to pray for someone, drop everything and do it!

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The renewal and revival that our culture and our world need will come from a minority filled with fire, spiritual muscle and the truth. They are the future. Numbers can sometimes be a curse rather than a blessing. It is not the number of people who claim the name “Christian” that will change the world but the intensity with which they live their faith. The faith that makes a difference is not the one that grows outward but the one that grows within. When we look at the beautiful world around us this summer, we should call to mind the magnificent truth that the growth we see began with small seeds that grew slowly over the years. The same is true in our Church life and our spiritual life. Our spiritual vitality begins with a trickle of water at Baptism. It grows with a water of bread in Holy Communion and a smudge of consecrated oil at Confirmation. Slowly the graces planted through those sacraments can grow into a heroic and life-changing holiness that profoundly affects others.

Fr. Martin Bui

celebrating
TEN 10 YEARS

Fr. Martin Bui



Ordained on
June 11, 2011