

FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

The other day I opened up my phone to retrieve the news headlines. I perused the stories and what struck me was that all of the items were seemingly rooted in anger. While anger is a human emotion that needs to be emoted, it need not become a poison or a root for evil. More and more it seems we are living in an angry world. Perhaps the better way to say this is that we live in a world in which there are many anger issues that remain unresolved. If we don't deal with them appropriately, they can become very detrimental to our relationships and institutions.

Today's first reading from the Book of Sirach offers some poignant insight into the reality of anger. "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the Lord's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail."

Sometimes we would rather hold tightly to our anger than work through it. How can we allow our anger to fester with one another while, at the same time, seeking peace and forgiveness with God? It can become a double standard by which we live. Sirach asks, "Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?"

As human beings we are called to be people of integrity and authenticity. While we need to be true to our emotions, especially anger, we cannot allow it to rule us. What is more, we cannot live according to a double standard.

The gospel today highlights the importance of forgiveness in the Christian journey. As Christians we are called not to be people of anger but people of forgiveness. Forgiveness must always triumph over anger. While this may necessarily take time, it is still something we need to work at in our lives. When we allow anger to fester and leave it untreated, it wreaks havoc in our life as well as the lives of others. Sometimes dealing with the anger is even more challenging because the person with whom we are angry is the one in the mirror.

One of the takeaways this week is to bring forgiveness with there is anger. And if we are angry at a particular person or institution, the best thing we can do to work through the anger is to pray for them.

Tomorrow, September 14, is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This is a day to display the cross prominently in our homes. It is also a day in which we can together pledge to lift high the crosses in our own lives.

Tuesday, September 15, is the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. This feast recalls the Seven Sorrows of Mary that pierced her heart. These Seven Sorrows are: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, Mary's meeting Jesus on the way of the cross, the Crucifixion of Jesus on Mount Calvary and the Piercing of the Side of Jesus with a spear, his descent from the Cross and the burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea.

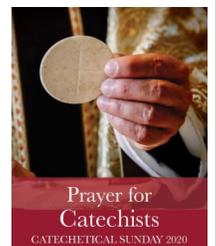
Both of these days can offer us strength amid the crosses and sorrows in our life. Let us together pray, "Passion of Christ strengthen us!" "Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us!"



Today is our Annual Harvest Home Festival on the grounds of Saint Alphonsus and Blessed Seelos Academy. Thanks for your support. All proceeds from this event benefit Blessed Seelos Academy and Saint Aidan Parish.

This week I will begin a series of Masses spanning the next few weeks conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation on our ninth graders. Please pray for them. Also keep in mind that because these Masses are happening on Tuesdays, **Eucharistic Adoration will take place on Wednesdays in Saint Alexis Church on September 16, 23, 30 and October 7.**

Next Sunday, September 20, is Catechetical Sunday. All of our catechists will be joining us at the 9:00am Mass next Sunday in the lower parking lot of Saint Alphonsus. These catechists will begin the year teaching virtually. Let us pray for them and for our students.



Have a wonderful week!