

Pastor's Message

The second reading every Sunday is from one of the epistles (letters) written for the early church most often from a letter written by St. Paul. These readings are often sequential, i.e., we will read from Paul's letter to the Galatians, the Romans, the Ephesians, Corinthians...until we have read sections from the entire letter. These second readings usually do not reflect the theme(s) that are found in the first (Old Testament) or third (Gospel) readings. Seldom will the homily be developed from or even allude to the second reading. The second readings were included in our revised, Second Vatican Council liturgy, so that we could all hear these important letters that addressed the early issues in our church.

Every week as I read the problems that St. Paul, St. John, St. Timothy, St. Jude are addressing in the early church I see similar issues present in our communities today. God is present in living communities to the faithful. God, for some mysterious reason, has chosen to make God's presence real in human beings. As we pray in four of our newest Eucharistic prayers: "You are indeed Holy and to be glorified. O God, who love the human race and who always walk with us on this journey of life. Blessed indeed is your Son, present in our midst when we are gathered by his love, and when, as once for the disciples, so now for us, he opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread..." God is and has always been present to us on our human journey. The epistles describe that early human journey of our church family as we struggled to understand how we should live as a community who have come to believe that Jesus died for us and rose to new life for us.

The second readings are rich sources of both insight and knowledge about who we are and how we are being invited to live together. Unfortunately they get lost in the richness of the first and third readings. I always thought that some year I would only preach on the second readings and ignore the first and the Gospel readings. Maybe I'll do that yet, some year.

Fr. Chris