

Our Household Church: Fear No One!

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time: 21 June 2020

WE GATHER AS PRAYER:

All: In the Name of the Father. In the Name of the Son. In the Name of the Holy Spirit! We Begin!

All: Creator, we gather in homes whether in apartments, mobile-home courts, houses or hotel rooms as well as camping and some of us are even home-less. Some of us live with others. Some of us are alone. We are long term residents as well as travelers, pilgrims and recent arrivals. Yet, we each gather to praise and thank You for life and struggle, hope and forgiveness! We know You listen to us! Help us listen to one another!

Men: You encourage us to grow generous hearts **All:** as You in Creation are generous with us!

Women: Being rich in mercy, You constantly offer pardon. **All:** You call us to trust in Your forgiveness and to be forgiving as You are for us. If You continue to forgive us, who are we to hold back forgiveness?

Eldest: You never turned away from Your people, even though so often Your covenant was broken,

Women: You continue to bind the human family to Yourself through Jesus your Son, our Redeemer,

Men: with a new bond of love so tight that it can never be undone.

Eldest: Today, again You call us, Your people to a time of grace and reconciliation

All: As we turn to You in spirit, this day, fill us with hope in Christ Jesus and to desire to be of service to everyone. Fill us, and the people we serve, with the same Holy Spirit, opening our eyes to see and hear You.

WE READ, LISTEN and SHARE:

Today's Gospel is found in [Matthew 10:26-33](#). For today's complete Readings [click here](#). Each of the Readings can be read or simply read the Gospel. While someone reads the Scripture(s), listen well. BE AWARE OF THE IMAGE BEING PAINTED, OR THE STORY BEING TOLD. DOES THE STORY OR THE IMAGE CALL TO MIND ANYTHING SIMILAR IN YOUR OWN LIFE EXPERIENCE?

After the reading, share your impressions of the reading(s) with each other:

✓ Today's Gospel (as well as the other two readings) are focused on **Fear**.

Fear is something that can take energy away from us, cause us to doubt ourselves and lead us to make painful choices. Let's take a moment to look at **Fear** first:

- **Fear** is a vital response to physical and emotional danger that has been pivotal throughout evolution.
 - If people did not feel **fear**, they would not be able to protect themselves from legitimate danger.
 - **Fear** comes in many shades.
 - **Fear** is an inherently unpleasant experience that can range from mild to paralyzing
- ✓ *What is something you feared when you were little? Have you gotten through it? If so, how?*
- ✓ *What fear(s) "went with you" when you first moved "away" from "home?" Please share the story.*
- ✓ *Tell of a time when you were with someone, or a group, and a fear of the other(s) began to "invade" your balance and calm. Which won out, the sense of balance or the fear?*
- ✓ *Tell of a time that you were able to maintain balance in a frightening situation and bring calm.*
- ✓ *When Jesus says in the Gospel, "Fear no one!" Who do you think he was thinking about?*
- ✓ *Do you think that Jesus may have been afraid here? Maybe he was "afraid" that the disciples were becoming "afraid" and that they might leave him. What would have happened had Jesus been abandoned by the disciples?*
- ✓ *Has fear of doing something "good" ever stopped you from following through (because a sense of acceptance in your family or friends would be diminished)? How did you handle that?*
- ✓ *Jesus connects the living of Gospel practice (praxis) with light in darkness.*
- *In your encounters with fear, was there a feeling of "being in the dark"?*
 - *Was someone who came to help like "a light" for you? How does that work?*
- ✓ *What "fears" do I confront right now? ,,do we confront as a family, a Church and a society?*
- ✓ *What darkness causes these things? What "light" might help guide us through?*

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✓ *Jesus is the Light of the World. In what of the Way of Life Jesus in the Gospel can we find hope to address what we fear today?*

WE BREAK BREAD IN UNITY AND HOPE:

Women: We gather (*together and at a distance*) to re-member how Jesus, your Son, tied us to the Jewish Passover of Freedom – sharing bread and (*wine/water or a meal*)! As your Christ, Jesus shows us to live beyond Fear and in the Way to Peace we share this bread broken apart and healed in us: **All:** We Thank You: (*pass some form of bread (a loaf, pita, tortilla, chapati or a meal) with each person breaking off a piece.*)

Men: Confronting Death – what greater Fear is there? – and shedding his blood on the cross washing away our sins, Jesus, broken becomes our healing, the compassion that flows in us and through us to the world:

All: We Thank You:

(pass a pitcher of wine, water, juice, etc. to each person. After everyone has poured their glass/cup, pray together [repeating after a leader if there are small children present]):

All: and Rising from the dead Christ Frees us of the fear of the deaths of our lives. **All:** We Thank You.

Elders: Jesus Your Christ teaches the Way of Peace transforming the world in which participate.

Women: The Peace we bear and share in Jesus Your Christ leads us to help reconcile our World to You.

All: We Thank You!

Youngest: Creator God, as we long to participate in the Bread and Cup of the parish community

All: gather us: healing the divisions of fear and closed hearts in the world around us.

Elders: We gather as a Household Church, both present and remote, and know our communion of mind and heart. We gather then as a church: (*take turns praying these petitions*)

- May the communion of our Domestic Church calm our fears and comfort the dis-ease among us.
- (*mention specific fears or concerns for which comfort and hope are sought*)
- Guide the leadership of (*name of parish/chapel/mission/community*), both lay and clerical, as they continue to discern how best to re-gather us.
- Inspire our bishop (*name*) with pastoral balance and attentive wisdom.
- Continue to enable Pope Francis with the vision of healing the Universal Church into the future.
- Empower the leadership of other Faith and Religious communities as they seek, as well, a way through the shadows of distancing for their congregations.
- May Health Care Workers and First Responders we know (*names*), be safe! Calm their fears!
- For relief to families struggling to meet the needs of food and finances. May those who have be able to share.
- Give comfort to families and friends who know people who have died during this time.
- (*other prayers*)

All: Our Father, who art in heaven...

In the Name of the Father. In the Name of the Son. In the Name of the Holy Spirit! We move on!