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OUR PIUS UPDATE
August 10, 2021

ACCEPTING THE WHOLE OF JESUS' MESSAGE

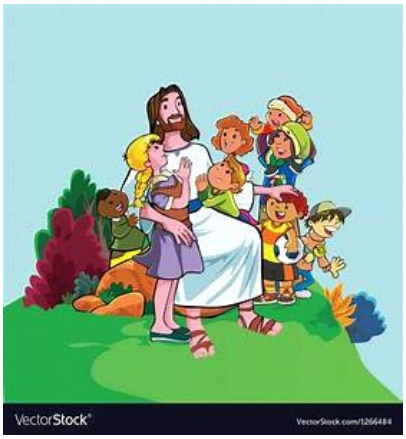
I am always comforted by this passage, in which even the disciples who are spending every day with Jesus are confused about his identity and role in their lives. We, too, might sometimes ask a similar question in our faith. Who is Jesus to us? A friend? A judge? A constant presence in our lives? Someone we turn to in times of trouble?

Even Peter's beautiful realization that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God is paired with his reluctance to believe that the path Jesus takes will lead to suffering and death. When I reflect on this, I think about the ways I sometimes want to accept the comforting parts of the message of Jesus, but not his call to service and sacrifice. Let's pray today to see Jesus as he is, and want what God wants for our lives.

-Beth Franzosa is a Religious Studies teacher and the Director of Adult Formation at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

PRAYER

Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.
-Traditional prayer



SCHMALZ BUILDS AS OTHERS TEAR DOWN

As the statues fall across the nation, there is little positive sculptor ***Timothy Schmalz*** can glean from the anger and destruction.

Egerton Ryerson, John A. Macdonald, Queens Victoria and Elizabeth have all felt the wrath of crowds upset with Canada's residential school legacy as their own legacies are diminished for their perceived roles in the system. The anger has bubbled to the surface with the discovery of over 1,100 unmarked grave sites at former residential schools in Saskatchewan and British Columbia, with more sure to come.

"There seems to be such an inclination for destruction in our country right now," said Schmalz, the renowned Catholic artist from St. Jacob's, Ontario. *"It is kind of human nature in a way when you have an abundant amount of energy, and you don't know how to express it, it usually becomes a destructive event of energy."*

Rather than tearing down, Schmalz is a firm believer in building up.

"Where I can help as a Catholic sculptor is to bring in new symbols that can be used in a positive manner," he said. *"It is one thing to say something in words, it is another to say something with artwork. Since art is open to interpretation, it has a powerful effect on a culture, on a society and a people."*

Indeed, Schmalz has fashioned a possible solution. The prolific artist diverted focus from his current artistic slate to cast a sculptural model called Residential School. He began to sculpt the prototype on Canada Day, a Thursday, and he kept pouring his energy into finishing the original design of his artistic tribute until it was complete by Sunday night. It's now being molded into the finished product.

Schmalz crafted a residential school classroom with each desk representing Canada and one of its 10 provinces and three territories. A lone Indigenous girl sits at one of the desks with the side of her head and one of her hands resting on top of the desk. She holds a feather in her other hand next to her skirt.

"I think the little girl being surrounded by all these empty desks is a simple, but powerful message," said Schmalz. *"The child has her head bowed on the desk almost hiding from the situation at the school. It also looks like she is passing a secret note - in this case a feather - to another student, which is symbolic of her ancestry and culture."*

Schmalz contemplated a classroom full of kids, but ultimately felt he could better illustrate the fearful, solitary and sorrowful nature of these institutions more effectively with one student.

It's his hope to install a full-sized sculpture on the grounds of a Catholic parish in each province and territory. He envisions visitors walking between each of the desks - the chairs will be tucked in - and perhaps feeling inclined to leave gifts of flowers or tobacco to offer remembrance for the children.

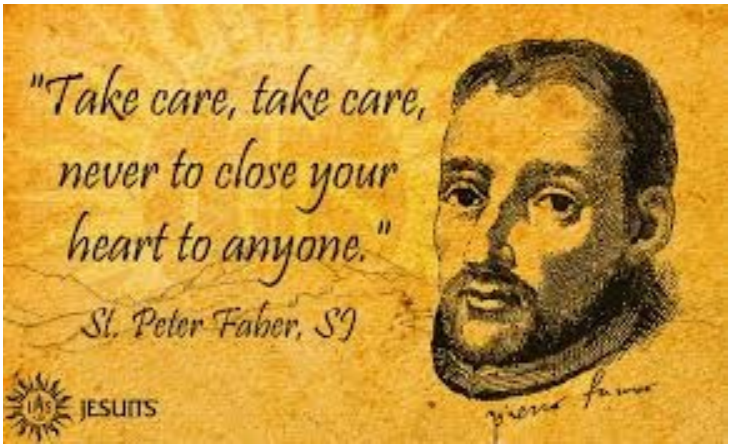
It's not the first time Schmalz has expressed his frustration with the tearing down of statues. Only a year ago, during the furor of the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer, he told ***The Catholic Register*** he cringed at the site of monuments being torn down.

SOURCE: By Quinton Amundson**, The Catholic Register**, July 15, 2021

Homeless Jesus

PETER FABER

April 13, 1506 - August 1, 1546



He was the son of poor Alpine shepherds with little formal education, but somehow, Peter managed to get to college in Paris. He was nineteen, as was his roommate, ***Francis Xavier*** *(December 3)*. After a time, they took on a third roommate, ***Ignatius of Loyola*** *(July 31)*. The rest is history. While Peter is not as well known as his roommates, like them he was an original member of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits. Peter lived out his charism as an adviser at important religious assemblies which as the Diet of Worms. One of his key assignments was working with Protestants during the Reformation. He also traveled thousands of miles in Italy, Germany, France and Portugal on foot, preaching and offering retreats for laypeople on Ignatius' spiritual exercises.

Talk about the hand of God in roommate selection! As friends, Francis and Ignatius and the other founding Jesuits supported each other in prayer and camaraderie. It's a gift when we can recognize the presence of God in the people in our lives.

INSPIRATION

It is the Lord who does all things in us,
and for whom all things operate,
and in whom they all exist.
(St. Peter Faber)

CHALLENGE

Catch up via phone or email with a friend who bolsters your faith.

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
The Lord make his face
shine on you and
be gracious to you;
The Lord turn his face
toward you and
give you peace.
~ Numbers 6:24-26