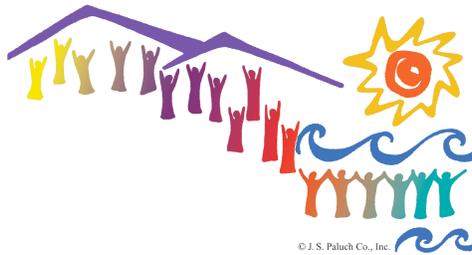




St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Community

Reflections with Fr. Mark

April 23, 2020



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Dear Parishioners,

“Stand by Me” was a wonderful movie and song from the 80’s about a group of adolescent boys growing up in a small town in middle America in the 50’s. It really was a reminiscence of one of the now grown up boys looking back at his youth and recalling the life events that formed him in his youth. We can all recall the life and faith events in our own journey. In the movie, the boys were faithful to one another as genuine friends, though each with his own challenging circumstances in life, were able to “stand by” and befriend the other.

Our story includes the disciples in the early Church who were ordered not to speak of Jesus anymore by the authorities. Of course, they continued to speak of their friend and brother Jesus and His Resurrection. Even in the face of danger a true friend will risk everything to be faithful to that relationship. We are called to have this genuine relationship with the Lord as well; not to mention, with one another.

We are called not to think of “me” but “**HE.**” In our self-promoting and self-interested society in which we find ourselves always judging those outside of ourselves or our positions, it becomes more difficult to find Christ and to be centered on Him. I’m sure many have questioned where Christ is in this time of pandemic because it is infringing on what we want to do. Perhaps we need to focus a bit more on what he is calling us to do, especially in our serene moments of prayer these days.

The early Church grew very quickly because there was a community focused on all and not the individual. It was the Body of Christ living in the Holy Spirit that was able to stand with one another in a spirit of acceptance and humility. A humble sinner does not point the finger except at oneself. In this self-acceptance, as a sinner, one can live in a community of sinners who together sail the stormy seas to the calm of heaven’s harbor. If we learn anything from the early Church and our invitation to embrace this time of isolation, it is to sit calmly with a God who has been there before us and will see us through.

The book of Acts today reminds us: “One who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things.” But, my friends, we are **NOT** of earth so we must keep focused on our true home. In accomplishing this feat, we will find peace.

Happy Easter! He is Risen! Alleluia!

Fr. Mark

Watch Sunday Mass from St. Luke at Home: The recordings are available on our Parish website, www.stluketemplecity.org, and sent through our e-communications. The services will remain posted so you may view at your convenience.

Please visit our Parish Website for continued COVID-19 information related to parish activities and previous e-communications: <https://stluketemplecity.org/covid-19>