

Fr DeSiano seminar – January 4, 2020

The seminar focused on Gospel liberation (as defined in Luke 4:14-20 “he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor, ...to proclaim liberty to captives...recovery of sight to the blind...let the oppressed go free) and evangelization or spreading the Gospel.

“To the extent God reigns within us, the life of society will be a setting for universal solidarity, justice, peace and dignity.” (*Joy of the Gospel 180*)

Fr. Desiano focused on hope as a virtue from God and for God in which a vision of the future becomes an active and shaping force for our actions today insofar as they relate to the future God envisions for all humanity.

He asked how the following elements are embodied in the **ideals** of modern states and embodied in the **activities** of Catholic parishes: Good news for the poor; healing for the afflicted; justice; freedom for the imprisoned; inclusion for the excluded; forgiveness of sin; life for the dead.

He urged all Catholics to be centered on the reign of Jesus: living for the kingdom; living for the same goals He lived for; with an inclusive view of all humans; with solidarity with all who are suffering and deprived; cooperating as widely as possible; promoting universal love revealed in compassion; with a commitment to put the kingdom first.

The Good Samaritan had a compassion that transcended all social categories (including religious categories). Step beyond the culture wars. Social outreach is as important as liturgy and religious education. All are called to be involved in service in and beyond the parish. Establish ministries that dramatize care for others.

Part 2 – A Kingdom of love

The New Testament is as much about doing as teaching. It would be unintelligible without the stories of the miracles, healings and deeds of Jesus. In *Joy of the Gospel* Pope Francis writes “Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.

The Parables speak of the growth and availability of the kingdom. They tell us to respond to the kingdom. They give us specific action that is a sign of the kingdom. Matthew 25 recommends the corporal works of mercy. Offering a cup of cold water proclaims it. Love for the least means love for all.

Compassion and faith are the essential entryways to the kingdom.

The church is gathered to grow the kingdom by continuing the words, works and sacred gestures of Jesus. Christianity has radicalized all notions of relationship and kinship. All are brother and sister to me. The church is authenticated by its deeds done in the name of Jesus. Mother Theresa did more to shape the public face of the church than any of her contemporaries even John Paul II because she was accessible to those in need.