

Homily Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time June 27th 2021

INTRODUCTION

We all have seen “BEFORE” and “AFTER” pictures, --- used to sell for example, --- “DIET FOODS”, ---“EXERCISE EQUIPMENT” ---or “PLASTIC SURGERY “etc. --- We all know people in such bad shape that they can make a living as a professional “MR BEFORE”.

To day’s scripture readings give us “BEFORE” and “AFTER “pictures in three scenes ---Actually it is “BEFORE” ---“AFTER” --and then “AFTER THAT“---.

In the first reading, today, from the Old Testament Book of WISDOM we read ... “God did not make death. --- He fashioned all things that they might have BEING,... and the creatures of the world are WHOLESOME. ...God formed man to be imperishable. “--- It shows us all creation FILLED with the LIFE of GOD. ... It is the natural world in ALL ITS BEAUTY that we here have a chance to experience to some extent this SUMMER’S DAY.

Then something snapped: “But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world” --- says the same Book of WISDOM. -- This refers to that split from God that ruptured creation in the original sin. --- It is as though God had created a magnificent and splendid glass window, like the stained glass windows in

our church here today. Everything fits together,--- and then--- suddenly--- all glass is shattered.

That is scene two, --- the “AFTER”--- scene, which is the human world we know. --- I can pick up each of the pieces of glass and see a little of the beauty of the original creation still there inside.

Some basic fundamentals all of us here remember:

- 1) The awesome power of sexuality to transmit life:
- 2) The capacity of everyone of us here to make choices that shape my life:
- 3) The power of fidelity by me to remain loyal to my promises for my lifetime:
- 4) The birth and growth of my children :
- 5) The capacity of my human mind to discover --- to invent --- to imagine ---as in the mapping of the human DNA
- 6) My drive and ambition to improve my community
- 7) To shape the World
- 8) Build a city
- 9) Go to the MOON.

All these are magnificent pieces of God’s original creation,--- but each of these pieces broken from the rest (like the glass) has a jagged edge , and it can harm me.

EXAMPLE

- 1) I know,--- how--- when my sexuality when separated from its purpose in marriage can dominate my life ,--- even obsess me,--- and occupy my every thought and action.
- 2) I know how over-ambition by me can trample on people and nations.
- 3) I know how my over indulgence in drugs and alcohol can destroy my life, my family, and my society.
- 4) I know how human beings by the evil they do, can turn a city into a war zone, --- how technology can serve sinister purposes ---like the temptations of the INTERNET.

In each of these cases, the power of the original creation is still there, but it is broken off from its center ,--- the pieces no longer fit easily together. --- The inner harmony, ---the coherence ---the link to GOD that held everything together were lost by original sin.

Jesus came on our Earth to put all the broken pieces together into a new creation.

We see that in scene three--- (“the after that”) in today’s Gospel. Jesus restores a small girl to her family and heals a woman with that “Flow of blood”.

By that healing the Lord not only cures her illness but also restores her to her community.

Throughout all the Gospels we see Jesus through his teaching, --- His miracles,--- and now through his Church today,--- and the HOLY SPIRIT putting together the broken pieces.

Do all the pieces fit together in my life? Or do I cut myself on these jagged edges? Am I willing to settle for a broken world, to look at the broken pieces in my life and sigh, --- a sigh of regret about original sin?

Or do I know and trust that repair and healing can take place in my life and between people? The point of the Gospels is: --- I don't have to settle for broken pieces in my life. --- Jesus can help me put my broken pieces together and in our World.

But first like the woman in today's Gospel ,I have to reach out to Christ,---go to Him ---and come to HIM. Too often I look to mend my life in externals

EXAMPLE;

Move to a new neighborhood --- Get a new job, --- Buy new clothes --- get a new therapist. --- When I really need healing and mending on the inside. Jesus

gives me a deeper healing because he heals from the inside out.–He is a wonderful and wise physician – always on call.

AMEN