
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 22, 2012

Dear Friends,

The old mantra I grew up with was; '*outside the church there is no salvation*'. How wrong we were. It should have read: '*outside the flesh there is no salvation*'. For me there is no denying the radical humanity of Jesus. His absolute humanity is by its defined and intrinsic meaning, the very key to understanding our redemption. Moreover, anything that diminishes our belief in the true humanity of Jesus diminishes our belief in the truth of our own flesh and blood.

Jesus was the dude who was '*man about town*', the one who scandalized the judgmental by eating and drinking in dimly lit taverns with shady characters. He showed his frustration, anger, tears and impatience openly and his profound human need for male and female friendship. He took on the three mighty crosses of life: physical and mental pain, the loss of his good name and ultimate abandonment in his hardest hour, by a Father that did not seem to care.

He was a man of courage who despised pretence. He decided from the beginning not to live from a place of fear. He chose love. Like us he confronted the enemies about him and within. He grew old gracefully, in wisdom and compassion.

He was an attractive man: the woman at the well was smitten, so were Mary and Martha. The disciples abandoned all to follow him, sure evidence they were attracted to him too.

For me priesthood is not defined by role, status, power or the black suit. The authenticity of the priest is and always will be: *the authenticity of his own life*.

It was Jesus' genuineness and authenticity that saved the world. It is the same for us. People ache and hunger for what's closest to the human heart: genuine love.

If we glance over our shoulders at the battle the worldwide church has had with abuse issues. It definitely wrestled to cling on to a shiny perfect image forgetting it is fatally flawed and terribly human. Denial became the weapon of defense. It did not work. In fact denial is a form of abuse in itself. It seems to me the crisis was addressed at the wrong end. From the top down is not the answer.

The malaise of priesthood can only be healed head on at the grass roots level: engaging messy humanity with confrontation, accountability, listening, remorse, transparency, nourishment, forgiveness, healing and transformation. Only within flawed flesh can redemption happen. There is no other place for healing and hurt to meet, for grace and sin to embrace and for a damaged beauty to be restored.

How can I ever, as Donie stand up and preach my truth in and through my weaknesses? I can only do so because I know in my heart of hearts that Jesus did it before me. He overcame his own fear of others and spoke honestly from his own convictions! How could I live out this life, with its disenchantments, loneliness, injustices and betrayals if I am not convinced that they played an intrinsic part in the life of Jesus? Why do I continue struggling for liberation and justice? I do so because Jesus embraced these human values in his own marginalized humanity.

God's explosive power and connection lies in the humanity of Jesus. When I am hanging on the ropes of my pain I hold on to Jesus, because he knows the way of the wound from the inside. In the poverty of my wild, wayward, imperfect and wonderful life it is the incarnation, '*God with us*' that makes sense of it all.

In the Vatican II document: Gaudium et Spes this is beautifully crafted: '*Jesus worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. He truly was made one of us...for us the divinity of Christ will ever be inseparable from his humanity*'. Divinity in fact is fully realized humanity.

It seems to me one of the necessary credentials for any priest is not to be an expert in canon law or inhuman clericalism but to be an expert in humanity. To be aware of '*the sign of the times*.' To be able to look the present day man and woman in the eye and say, '*I care, I understand*'. To have his pulse on the rhythm of life, its struggles and cares. To have profound empathy with the

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WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY

- The Third Sunday of Easter / Catholic Home Missions Appeal**
- Festival Sign-ups Following all Masses / Fair Trade Sales / RE Festival Wine Collection
- RE Program for 3 yr olds, Room D, During 9:15 Mass
- RE PreK/K Program: PreK Prgrm, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, D: K Prgrm, CTK School; During 9:15 Mass
- CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word-Grades 1-5), During 9:15 Mass
- RE Older Sacrament First Eucharist (Gr. 3-5), 10:30 am, Church**
- RE Older Sacrament First Eucharist (Gr. 6-8), 12:15 pm, Church**
- Youth Group, Winter Nights at CTK, Parish Hall, 4-8 pm
- Jr/Sr Confirmation, Parish Hall, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

MONDAY

- Musician's Retreat – "An Evening of Gratitude", Church, 7-9 pm**

TUESDAY

- Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, Following 8 am Mass-
- RE Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3 School, 3:40-5pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, C, D, 3:40—5:00 pm
- Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, CV Mtg Rm, 7 pm, contact Shirley @ 957-0488
- Spanish Prayer Group, CV Meeting Room, 7:30 pm
- Knight of Columbus Meeting, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY?

- RE Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3 School, 3:40-5pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, C, D, 3:40—5:00 pm
- Centering Prayer, Resurrection Episcopal Church (399 Gregory Lane), 7:30 pm

THURSDAY

- Centering Prayer, Ministry Center, 10:00am
- RE Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3 School, 3:40-5pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, C, D, 3:40—5:00 pm
- 2nd Grade Eucharist Practices: 3:45-4:45 pm for 4/28 – 9:30 am Mass, Church
5:00-6:00 pm for 4/28 – 11:00 am Mass, Church

FRIDAY

- RCIA, Ministry Center (Dining Room & Library), 7:00 pm
- Garden Café, Ministry Center, 7:30-9:30am, Proceeds go to the nurturing and growing of the CTK Garden

SATURDAY

- Parish Council, Ministry Center, 6 pm -10 pm**
- Men's Fellowship Grp, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 am, Contact John @ 372-7873
- Altar Society, Parish Hall (Rooms A & B), Following 8 am Mass
- 2nd Grade First Eucharist, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, Church**
- Youth Group Coffeehouse/Talent Show, Parish Hall, 6-9 pm, Open to everyone!

SUNDAY

- The Fourth Sunday of Easter / St. Vincent de Paul Society Second Collection**
- Festival Sign-ups Following all Masses / RE Festival Wine Collection
- RE Program for 3 yr olds, Room D, During 9:15 Mass
- RE PreK/K Program: (children & parents), Gym, 9:15 Mass
- No CLOW
- Jr/Sr Confirmation Sponsor/Candidate Rehearsal, Church, 6 pm**

Get in on the action at this year's FESTIVAL – May 18, 19 & 20! ► Sign up to assist with a booth or activity. Online signups are available at <http://ctkfestival.volunteerhub.com>. Signups will also be taken after Masses starting this weekend.

► **This year's t-shirt** reflects the "Olympic" theme for the 2012 Festival, and the cost is \$10 each. (Contact Katherine at kcpatti@yahoo.com if you need more information.)

► **Festival 2012 Starbooks** – We are accepting book donations now through Wed. May 17th. Please drop off donations at the gym doors off the small parking lot. Gently used books, DVD's and CD's. Please no textbooks, magazines or VHS.

► **Country Store Donations** – We'll accept donations of all new, or gently used, items (no furniture, clothing, computers/TV's, etc.) You may deliver items to CTK near the side of the gym where the POD is located.

► **Any donations or volunteer services are helpful** – we also need help setting up the Country Store, so if you are able to spare a few hours, please call Sam Patti at 925-980-3077. Thank you!

► **Hoping You Will Help** – RE is again sponsoring the wine booth for Festival. We need your generosity. Please help by donating bottles of wine. You may drop the wine off at the RE Office (facing Gregory Lane) Monday-Thursday, 9:30am-5:30pm or you may leave the wine at the Parish House. On the weekends of April 21/22, 28/29 and May 5/6 we will collect wine after all the masses outside the church. Thanks, Sr. Maureen.

Parish Council next week! Our Parish Council will be meeting this Friday evening from 6-10pm. Its agenda will be analyzing, exploring and examining the results of our "recent parishioner survey". Subcommittees have been at work on them for several months.

displaced, the anguished, the hopeless, the sad and the lost. Salvation is crafted in the workshops of such diverse and ordinary people.

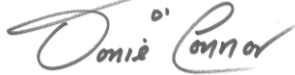
He needs to 'get out there' where ever 'there' may be and bring 'church' to the 'market place' where he can meet and greet his people. Whether that is in the shopping mall, the local pub or the trail. He needs to know the price of milk and bread. He needs the wisdom to know 'priesthood' goes way beyond books and sacraments; that it finds itself most deeply in ordinary human relationships. Reassuring people that all jobs are priestly work: just as I celebrate mass at the altar, the carpenter celebrates mass at his work bench, the metal worker at the lathe, the Farmers Market woman at her stall and the doctor in the surgery.

To fall in love with God we have to fall in love with our humanity. For this we need new saints!

We can never be too human!

Enjoy the April showers!

Your Associate Pastor,



*Donie O' Connor MHM
(Mill Hill Missionary)*

Just What Is "Fair Trade", Anyway? Stephanie King will explain the importance of this topic in international economic justice at the Social Justice Committee meeting on Thursday, May 3rd, from 7-9 pm in the Parish Hall rooms A & B. Founder of Fair Trade Designs, Stephanie will showcase the stories of artisans and have some of their work available for purchase. For more info: ctksocjustice@gmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul Alert Next Weekend – Don't forget to help us help the poor and needy who come to our front door every day of the week. Our quarterly second collection comes next weekend and is very important for the poor and for our future. Thank you so very much!

