

SAID ED August 11, 2013

Forgiveness

“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”. These words are so familiar to us. We say them often. They are part of our routine prayer. They are rooted in our deepest hearts if we are to get the fullest message that Jesus offers, we need to ponder them every now and then.

Forgiveness...it's not just about saying “I'm sorry” and then moving on. Forgiveness is a powerful grace that the Lord gives us that we might give to others. God gives us this gift because God wants us to be free.

And forgiveness is not just something we offer to some one else (as important as that is), it's something we do for ourselves. Refusing to forgive merely prolongs our hurt feelings. It leads us to dwell upon them; ruminating on these hurts. And not forgiving keeps them alive, nurturing the pain, the sorrow and the suffering, That's not good for us.

Rather when we forgive, those negative feelings have are purged from our hearts. Then, there is room for the new good news of reconciliation. The energy that sustained the anger is now available for other purposes. There is openness, a lightness within our hearts which fills us with new life.

If you need another reason to forgive, try this: Jesus taught us that to receive forgiveness of daily of our sins, we must forgive others who sinned against (hurt) us. If we can't do this or won't do this, how can we ever obtain healing for ourselves?

Take a moment to think about praying for someone who has hurt you. Ask God to bless them. Not only will you find the pain start to lessen, you'll be saying one of Jesus' most fervent prayers. He prayed it even he was dying on the cross, remember.? “Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.” It was one of the last things he said.

The more “Christ like” we become the more room for forgiveness and peace within us.

You may have noticed the bells that signal the beginning of Mass haven't been ringing lately. That's because a few weeks ago during a routine inspection, we discovered a crack in the clapper of the large bell. The inspection revealed that this is a safety issue. If the crack is not attended to it could wind up falling out of the tower bell. Fr. Ed Golden told me years ago that when he first arrived in 1991, as he greeted people one day, the clapper in the small bell came flying through the air and almost “beaned” him. That incident began regular inspections by the Verdin Bell Company, who now maintains our tower bells.

The unfortunate news is that we need a \$6,000 repair. These bells were a gift from a family of the parish many years and were originally located in the old church that gave way to our new building in 1982. We want to have these repaired as soon as possible not just of the safety concern but because of the beautiful sound they make in calling us to worship is sorely missed. If you would like to be part of this unbudgeted and unexpected expense, please be in touch.

Have a great week!
