

From the Pastor's Desk:

We heard in the first reading that the Apostles were told to stop speaking about Jesus. Peter says "We must obey God rather than men." It continues to amaze me how much the societal, cultural, and legalistic is viewed as a supreme authority. God's own Word (and the action of the Holy Spirit through the Church teaching and applying this Word) is often put aside because it does not coincide with a current fad, or a new cultural development, or the latest law that will change someday. I am not advocating anarchy against the government, but we must realize that the human systems in which we live are not the ultimate authority - that lies with God. If the Massachusetts legislature passed a law that said to murder someone who looked at you the wrong way was no longer to be considered murder - that would not change the fact that it is. If our cultural tendencies teach that it is preferable to hate and taunt those who are different than you - that would not make it right. We must not let these changing cultural tendencies to push aside God's law of love of neighbor. The apostles and other early disciples were brave and remained faithful to the teaching of Jesus - they were not faithful just to what would make them popular, or seem politically correct - we could hope to have such courage during this time when the forces of secularism are eroding the prominence of God in the minds of many.

During this past week we have had a few developments. We have found a buyer for the old parish truck. Once the sale is concluded we will put that money into savings where it will help us by gaining interest. Bible study has resumed, and after I write this I'll be researching the readings for Sunday to prepare for our meeting this week. We had our question and answer session on the Mass on Monday, and our faith formation committee will be looking into what will be our educational and faith development activities for the Summer and Fall. We are looking to offer some topics and opportunities that have not been offered previously. We hosted the conclusion of our Deanery Pilgrimage last Sunday which was well attended. In addition to confessions, we had Eucharistic Adoration, a sung Divine Mercy Chaplet led by choir, and also a beautiful multi-part harmony prelude.

Our parish hosted a multi-parish confirmation on Friday. A number of our young people were confirmed, and will need our ongoing support and encouragement to become more involved members of the Church and our faith community. I also had the privilege to lead a special Mass in the prison where one man was baptized and received into the Church and several of the men received confirmation. It is a testament to the wonderful work being done by Chaplain Joe and Dave Bourgeois (our prison ministry coordinator) that so many are coming to enter into a deeper life with Christ. Please continue to pray for these men as they do for all of you when I go there to say Mass. Our hospital ministry is also doing well under the direction of Deacon Stan and we have increased our presence in the hospital and the amount of care we are able to provide there for these individuals who are often in difficult states.

There are many ways in which we can work to give witness to the love of God and to participate in Jesus' ministry in the world today. We don't need to have as much courage as the Apostles did, just enough to allow the Lord to use us to help transform our world.

God Bless You,
Fr. Steve