



FEAST DAY: Aug. 8th

St. Dominic: The Call

Introductory Prayer: Lord, you called Saint Dominic to work in your vineyard to save souls. I believe that you have called each of us by our Baptism to work alongside the saints to build your kingdom in this community. I place my trust in your grace which transforms the heart, renews the mind, and strengthens the will. I love you Lord because you suffered and died for me, giving Mary to me at the foot of the Cross to be my mother.

Fr. James Kelleher, SOLT video #1 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqIOcgjfMfE&t=12s)

Matthew 20:1-16a Parable of the workers in the vineyard

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Fr. James Kelleher, SOLT video #2 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=DR-e-NK-29E&t=17s)

Discussion questions (credit to Father Barry O’Toole, LC for framework of reflections and questions):

1. The Call to Work in the Vineyard: The landowner needs workers for his vineyard. We are all invited to be apostles in the Lord’s vineyard. Some might think they don’t have enough talent, others that they are just too busy to be able to do anything for Christ, and still others that the task is just too much for them. But Christ doesn’t ask for excuses; he asks for workers, generosity and good will. He will take care of the rest. He doesn’t call the prepared; he prepares the called. He is the one who produces the fruits, not us. Since St. Dominic was a gifted preacher, he thought he would easily be able to win the Albigensians back to the Catholic faith. After several years, he realized that his efforts were not effective. He took time off to pray, fast and do penance, begging God to come to his aid. It was only then that God sent Mary to his aid with the spiritual weapon of the Rosary.

- a) Are we open to God’s call to work in the vineyard or do we make excuses?
- b) How can I become better equipped to work in building the kingdom?

2. Turning the Tables: We complain so easily about the problems we see around us: the lack of values, the violence, the evil people do.... But if we listen to God in prayer, we would probably hear him reply, “Why are you standing here idle all day?” Perhaps we never knew there was something we could do. Perhaps we never had the courage to face the situation and address the matter seriously. Idleness is the one thing the Lord cannot understand. “You also go into the vineyard.” There was much evil in the world in the thirteenth century, when St. Dominic lived. But instead of complaining, he did something about it. After receiving the Rosary from our Lady, St. Dominic won back many Albigensians to the fullness of faith in Christ and strengthened the faith and prayer life of faithful Catholics.

- a) In our family life, do we promote and practice prayer? Have we made regular times for family prayer?
- b) How does the Church form us to “fight the good fight of faith”? What could our parish do better to prepare us?

3. The Surprising Salary: Go ahead and ask the question.... Peter did, in the passage just prior to this parable (Matthew 19:27-30): What can I expect from this? Christ is the best bargain in the marketplace. He promises us the full wage, even if we were called at the last hour. Whatever we “sacrifice” for him, he promises us 100% in this life plus eternal life. So really, the sky is the limit. We must ask ourselves: What am I willing to give Christ? A few meager dollars, a few fleeting moments of my day, only my “leftover” time? Christ never obliges; he only invites. It is important never to forget that by helping God to save souls we save our own. This is the way that St. Dominic built up his treasure in heaven. Many souls in heaven owe their salvation to St. Dominic’s efforts.

- a) What am I willing to risk to save someone from going to Hell?
- b) Does the Church need to use stronger words to describe the realities of sin and hell, and the realities of grace and heaven?

Men’s / Women’s parish team resolution for the month (choose one or suggest your own):

- Pray a decade of the rosary every day individually or as a family.
- Read and reflect on a portion of the Bible daily or the readings for the day’s Mass.
- Commit to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once in the next month.

Closing Prayer: One decade of the Scripture Rosary: the first Glorious Mystery, the Resurrection.

Verses to be recited before the Hail Mary’s:

1. "Amen, amen, I say to you, that you shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy." (John 16:20)
2. "For I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no one shall take from you." (John 16:22)
3. At early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. (Luke 24:1)
4. And behold, an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and drawing near rolled back the stone. (Matt. 28:2)
5. "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified." (Matt. 28:5)
6. He is not here, but has risen. Behold the place where they laid Him." (Mark 16:6)
7. "And behold, He goes before you into Galilee; there you shall see Him." (Matt. 28:7)
8. And they departed quickly from the tomb in fear and great joy. (Matt. 28:8)
9. "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me, even if he die, shall live." (John 11:25)
10. "And whoever believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:26)

(Taken from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)

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