

December 9, 2018

Second Sunday of Advent

The scriptures make a powerful demand upon how we live our lives. That demand that the scriptures make is not just for our private lives, on how we pray, on how treat others that we encounter every day, they also make a demand on how we live in society, on our public lives. The Christian faith and the Catholic faith in particular push us to live lives that make a difference in society, even when society might want to push us back into our Churches and live our faith as a private affair. The first reading from the Prophet Baruch calls the people of Israel to stand up with faith in God to face their exile head-on an oppressive action that Syria had taken against them. Baruch promises that they will see God's glory in peace and justice and in the worship of God. The Gospel of Luke mentions the oppressive leaders of the time: Pontius Pilate, Herod and Philip to set the scene to for Jesus's coming. His reign is not of this world, but make no mistake; his reign has authority and power in this world and over the powers of oppression. If the end of time, all that is unjust will pass away, and God's peace will last forever.

St. Paul makes praises the community at Philippi for their "partnership for the gospel" and prays that their "love may increase" so that they may be "blameless for the day of Christ." Our love increases when we live in partnership with others to live actively the gospel values of justice, life and peace in our world. One great instrument of helping parishes like ours to live in partnership is through Catholic Community Services and Catholic Housing Services which this year celebrates 100 years of service for those who are most in need.

At this time, I would like to show you a video, which tells their story the 100 years of service. (View the video by clicking below)

https://youtu.be/DWwZEns8O_o

I don't know about you, but when I see that video, I feel proud to be Catholic. It all began 100 years ago when a group of Catholic women called The Seattle Council of Women, concerned about the needs of poor children and over time, developed into what CCS and CHS is today. Groups of women at St. Louise continue this legacy through "Advocacy and Caring for Children" and I will include more of what they do in next week's bulletin. The point is that when parishes across the Archdiocese come together in partnership with Catholic Charities, we truly increase the love of Jesus Christ to the poor and forgotten from Bellingham to Vancouver, from Forks to the Eastside. Please be join me in giving a gift to Centennial Appeal for the Poor and be as generous as you can. You may place your envelope in the collection basket as it goes by. Thank you. Come Lord Jesus.