

March 17, 2019 – Second Sunday of Lent



*MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED  
NOW AND FOREVER!!!*

## SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

### Parking Lot Parents III

Sr. Patricia McCormack IHM in her book: *Engaging Parking Lot Parents: A Catechist's Guide to Fostering Parents Participation* provides many interesting insights into how we can re-engage fallen away Catholics and at the same time prevent our Church from losing the next generation. Insights from her book will be in bold and my thoughts will be in the normal font.

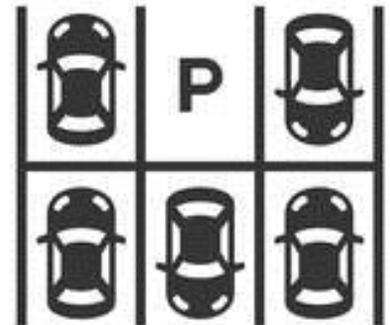
**Catechists are companions when they walk with parents, listening to them, affirming their strengths, supplementing their weaknesses, giving hope, offering support, speaking encouragement, and sharing Scripture. Parents will be receptive to companion catechists who present themselves as colleagues and partners on the journey. They get defensive and resistant when they perceive that the person holding the title of catechist is rigid, judgmental, and critical, or flaunts power, authority, or knowledge.**

As I reflect on this quote from Sr. Patricia two thoughts come to mind. I was blessed to become friends with the high school freshman scripture teacher Keith. Keith had just left the seminary after discerning that the priesthood was not for him and took the job of being the Freshman Scripture teacher at Prep (the high school seminary). My class was the first class that he had got to teach. The bond between Keith and many of the students deepened when the seminary high school closed at the end of our freshmen year and Keith helped our class stay connected for many years.

I remember talking to Keith after I graduated college and I said that it amazed me that I now was at the point of knowledge that he was when he started teaching my class. Keith confessed that the only way that he was able to teach us was that he had the Teacher's book and was always just one lesson ahead. His confession, made it easier for me to see how I could teach even though I did not have all the answers. In the end, I realize that I learned more from Keith than I did from other teachers who had more knowledge because Keith was willing to walk with me on my faith journey. In order to be a catechist (a teacher of the faith) I don't have to be a master of Biblical trivia or have a doctrine in Church Dogma, I simply have to be willing to walk with people including children on their faith journey.

The second thought that comes to mind when thinking about the above quote is that my attitude towards those, I am trying to teach is important. I also know that the times that I am rigid, judgmental, critical, or when I flaunt power, authority or knowledge are also the times that I am filled with fear. I think this is part of the reason why the most common words in Scripture are "Be Not Afraid." I have to remind myself that God is not expecting me to be perfect but he does expect me to try.

**We bring Jesus to others by what we are. We evangelize more effectively by our being than by any task we perform.** As a priest, I can give you a religion text book or a video to watch. I cannot make you trustworthy, carrying, or give you the gift of empathy. These are all skills you have to develop.



The following are some tips from Sr. Patricia.

1. Never underestimate the power of a smile. Like the Holy Spirit it “melts the frozen” and “warms the chill.”
2. Initiate gestures of hospitality and welcome: greeting by name, place cards, including in conversation
3. Display a patient and helpful attitude/approach
4. Witness Christian values. Practice and helpful attitude/approach. Especially to parents.
5. Be respectful and safe guard human dignity.
6. Be an agent of hope. “Speak only the good that people want to hear... things that will help them...”
7. Testify to the difference God makes in your life.

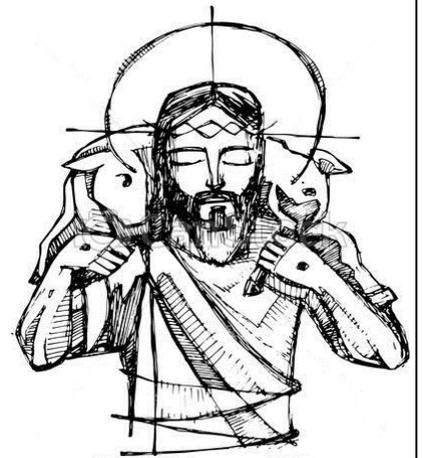
The catechist-teacher realizes that instruction will fall short if he or she is not primarily a witness to Jesus and the joy of his Gospel.

Teachers and parents are supposed to be co-workers and therefore we should all be grateful to all those who volunteer to be catechists. It is important therefore to show them gratitude and to assist them by reinforcing the lessons they learn in class in the home.

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

### *Sunday*

“To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good. because he is God, he is that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where. He is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But: to move forward! And this bothers us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable.” — Pope Francis



### *Monday*

We judge ourselves by our intentions. And others by their actions. - Stephen Covey

### *Tuesday*

Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families. - Pope John Paul II

### *Wednesday*

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. - Abraham Lincoln

### *Thursday*

As long as we continue to live as if we are what we do, what we have, and what other people think about us, we will remain filled with judgments, opinions, evaluations, and condemnations. We will remain addicted to putting people and things in their "right" place. - Henri Nouwen

### **Friday**

To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything. - Thomas Merton

### *Saturday*

Trust the past to the mercy of God, the present to His love, and the future to His providence. - Saint Augustine



# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

**March 17 2019 Second Sunday of Lent Lectionary: 27 Gospel LK 9:28B-36**

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

**Spiritual Reflection:** German Protestant Minister and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will." Peter, James, and John could have probably remained sinless by staying in the moment of the Transfiguration but Jesus does allow them to "build their tents".

**Spiritual Questions:**

1. What are some core activities Christians are called to do beside pray?
2. Why is simply avoiding sin not enough?
3. What were some spiritual highlights in your life?
4. How did the Transfiguration help Peter, James, and John?
5. How much did God's affirmation help Jesus continue with His ministry?

## PRO-LIFE

**A Prayer For Personal Conversion**

O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all selfish desires, we may lead a life that promotes the dignity of each human person. May everything I do and think become pleasing to you., or You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

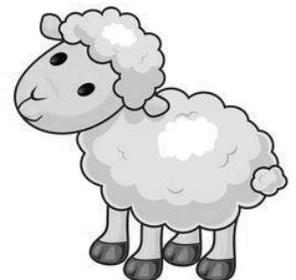


## St. Monica Society

*Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.*

**PRAYER FOR FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS DURING LENT**

God of times and seasons, you have brought us again to Lent for the study of Your Word, for the remembrance of the temptation of Your Son, and for the contemplation of His Cross. The birds know their seasons; forbid that we be blind to our times. Grant us a Lenten blessing upon us and upon our brothers and sisters who have fallen away from the true faith so that no one will miss this time of growth and repentance. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



# CATHOLIC PRAYER:

## THE CHAPLET OF THE HOLY WOUNDS

1. On the crucifix and first three beads:

*O Jesus, Divine Redeemer, be merciful to us and to the whole world. Amen.*

*Strong God, Holy God, Immortal God, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen*

*Grace and Mercy, O my Jesus, during present dangers; cover us with Your Precious Blood. Amen.*

*Eternal Father, grant us mercy through the Blood of Jesus Christ, Your only Son; grant us mercy we beseech You.*

*Amen, Amen, Amen.*



2a. The following prayers, composed by Our Lord, are to be said using the Marian Rosary:

On the large beads (The "Our Father" beads):

*Eternal Father, I offer You the Wounds of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, to heal the wounds of our souls.*

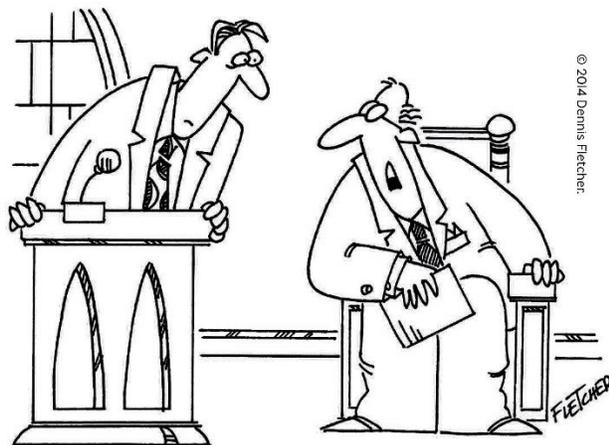
2b. On the small beads (The "Hail Mary" beads):

*My Jesus, pardon and mercy, through the merits of Your Holy Wounds.*

The devotion to the Holy Wounds and the following promises were revealed by Our Lord Jesus to Sr. Mary Martha Chambon (1841-1907) of the Monastery of the Visitation of Chambéry. The cause for her beatification was introduced in 1937.



"If telemarketers call, invite them to church."



"We need to reach a younger demographic ... use an illustration about that Lady Goo Goo person."

