

Jesus Calling, ~ Feb 15

- Come to Me with all your weaknesses: physical, emotional, and spiritual.
- Rest in the comfort of My Presence, remembering that *nothing is impossible with Me*.
- Pry your mind away from your problems so you can focus your attention on Me.
- Recall that I am *able to do immeasurably more than all you ask or imagine*.
- Instead of trying to direct Me to do this and that, seek to attune yourself to what I am *already* doing.
- When anxiety attempts to wedge its way into your thoughts, remind yourself that *I am your Shepherd*.
- The bottom line is that I am taking care of you; therefore, you needn't be afraid of anything.
- Rather than trying to maintain control over your life, abandon yourself to My will.
- Though this may feel frightening - even dangerous, the safest place to be is in My will.

words from Luke 1:37, Ephesians 3:20-21, Psalm 23:1-4

Jesus Calling, ~ Feb 17

- I am the Risen One who shines upon you always.
- You worship a living deity, not some idolatrous, man-made image.
- Your relationship with Me is meant to be vibrant and challenging, as I invade more and more areas of your life.
- Do not fear change, for I am making you a *new creation, with old things passing away and new things continually on the horizon*.
- When you cling to old ways and sameness you resist My work within you.
- I want you to embrace all that I am doing in your life, finding your security in Me alone.
- It is easy to make an idol of routine, finding security within the boundaries you build around your life.
- Although each day contains twenty-four hours, every single one presents a unique set of circumstances.
- Don't try to force-fit today into yesterday's mold.
- Instead, ask Me to open your eyes, so you can find all I have prepared for you in this precious day of Life.

words from Matthew 28:5-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Discussion

1a. what is catholic?

1b. what is Catholic?

1c. what is Roman Catholic? what is Old Catholic?

2. what is Mass?

3. what is the Novus Ordo Mass? Pope Paul VI in 1969, after the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) formerly the Tridentine Mass 1570 to 1969

4. why omit parts of the Mass we are accustomed to; Gloria during Advent & Lent, and Alleluia during Lent? mood and reflection on current weekly Gospels

5. what is the significance of the colors of vestments worn by clergy during the year? theater

(Extracted from a previous homily)

The word “catholic” means universal or big in scope. In its beginning the church of Jesus Christ was united. It was indeed universal -- it was catholic.

The church of St. Peter and the work of St. Paul to build it, saw a growth to millions of people for 400 years. First to depart on principle was the Assyrian Church and the Oriental Orthodox. Oriental meaning to the East of then-modern world, not meaning Western-Pacific-Asian. (better still, stop using the word ‘oriental’). The two groups had similar disagreements but were not united in their departure. They were the first of the catholic sister-churches to leave the “catholic” (small c) world. Christological terminology was the reason for the first group to leave the mainstream. Bickering and separation over words!

Next to disagree and depart was the Eastern Orthodox - today the Orthodox Church - in 1054. They disagreed with the single head of state and manager of the church in the person of a Pope. They also fought over what kind of bread to use at Mass. Leavened or unleavened. They disagreed over yeast. Remember what I said about ego, power and pride.

In later years the catholicism was centered in what they considered the center of their Christian world... Rome. Oh, for a time the Pope was in France... in the 1300s there were a succession of seven French popes during 70 years in Avignon. The pope was linked to the French crown... that’s another story and another disagreement. Ego and power.

By declaring that the pope was the head of the church (remember that there were no Popes in the beginning) and later that he was infallible, they steered off the course of their origin. They appropriate the word catholic and attached it to the supremacy of the Popes in Rome. It would later become the Roman Catholic Church. Religious historians take these facts to label the Roman Catholic Church as the third sister of the church that St. Paul built, having departed from the original course. For this lesson call them the New Catholic Church because of their new rules and interpretations. So there are three sisters departed from the mainstream Christian/catholic in the family of churches at this point.

In 1534 Henry the 8th breaks from the Pope and becomes head of the church in Great Britain. He fought the ideas of the reformationists and maintained the catholic perspective, but installed himself as a lay pope of sorts. The fight was over marriage and divorce mainly. So now there are four catholic sisters departed from the main.

The Anglican Church, or the Church of England was the parent of the Episcopal Church created in the new world of America. It evolved into the curious mix it is today (call it Proth-Lic), protesting the idea of a single leader of the church, holding fast to the catholic methodology and worship. The Episcopal Church remains part of the worldwide Anglican Communion which is the fourth catholic sister.

One short mention of the Protestant churches. The 16th century brought a huge break from all of the catholic sister churches. Let's keep the subject with the catholic sisters for now. Protestants comprise a new form of Christianity separate from any catholic-type churches.

In 1724 a group of catholics grouped together in Europe. They embraced the philosophy that they felt four groups had left behind. When united they were called the Old Catholic Church. It took more than 100 years to cement this group together. They argued and fought with the emerging protestant groups, Roman Catholics, kings and queens, national governments and all the other obstacles of history. They argued with the two villains I've mentioned called ego and power. Through the years they have become a global organization and take the place in history as the fifth catholic sister church. During this time they have become united with the Anglican church by a *communion agreement*. It is not a merger but a move toward religious harmony.

In the United States, the process is underway to bring churches like ours together and speak with one voice... to unite with other non-Roman Catholic churches and join the larger Old Catholic Church. In September of 2010, the members of the Conference of North American Old Catholic Bishops signed the Plan of Union, which created the Old Catholic Church, Province of the United States (TOCCUSA). This merger of the constituent members of the conference was a step forward in realizing the goal of creating a national church that patterns itself after the ecclesiology of the Union of Utrecht. The bishops of TOCCUSA recognize that full unity among Old Catholic jurisdictions is not yet accomplished. They continue to invite Old Catholic bishops and churches not yet a part of TOCCUSA to enter into dialogue with the 23 churches and missions in 15 states.

So this is where we are today, in a world of churches that are stuck with labels and people who need to be comfortable with the church and the people that they worship with. The Old Catholic Churches in the U.S. will eventually join the worldwide Old Catholic Church when the last steps are accomplished.

2

At the Last Supper, Jesus began the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his Body and Blood. He gave bread and water as representations of what would follow. His own body and blood from death by crucifixion.

He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the centuries until he should come again. The church he knew would follow him would be a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

Hundreds of years ago they decided that the Mass should include all those elements as the liturgy to celebrate with people and priests. It has retained a certain mystical property and people outside looking in might say that it so much ritual hooey.

Think of all of these elements, loud and clear prayers plus soft endearing prayers by someone as the leader of the service; singing and music with lyrics that bring one into the religious service; participatory readings by lay people; (silent confession) and forgiveness of sins, a statement of faith and promise of devotion, group prayers, prayers for some not present, donations to the church; and most importantly, the transubstantiation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus and sharing the Eucharist with those present.

All churches have some schedule of events. It has to be that way. Yes, it really is theater. But after a time it becomes a ritual of worship that humans look forward to because of what it gives back to them.

homework for meeting 3

- . what are the laws of Moses?
- . If Jesus died on Good Friday, why is it called "good"
- . Apostles, what happened to them?

- . is God man + woman, or was there a woman with God? Sofia, Divine Feminine?
- . was Mary Magdalene the wife of Jesus? did he have brothers too?
- . Reverence and worship of Mary

Prayer

A prayer should not be the loudest or longest way you talk to God. You may speak out loud or talk with the voice in your head. What a prayer really should be is the most sincere feeling you have. At some point words may not be required at all. Just feel your words and try to express them with your heart. Remember rule number one: love the Lord with all your heart. [also talk about the settling effect of taking long deep breaths]