

FROM THE PASTOR...

March 28, 2021

In case you don't know him or haven't met him, Mr. Jose Adan Bernabe is our deacon in training and will be ordained a permanent deacon for our parish on May 8th! Jose was part of the Spanish community at St. Cornelius and he and his wife Marcela discerned the call from God that he was meant to be a deacon. He currently primarily assists at the Spanish Mass and with the Spanish community, but he will be involved with the whole parish going forward. He doesn't give himself credit for how good his English is getting. Jose will be doing readings during the Triduum so you will get a chance to meet him if you haven't, and be sure to pray for him and thank him for saying yes to God's call.

Thank you for all those who donated for the tabernacle, ciborium, and two chalices that are being restored. We've raised enough money now for those specific items, over \$8,500 was collected, praise God! I'll take pictures and show you the beautiful results of your sacrifice as soon as they're ready. Of course, you'll see them in use at the church right away as well.

As I write this, we have reason to believe from the Cardinal that the Covid restrictions on Mass attendance will be relaxed a bit, we will have found out by Friday, March 26th. Whatever the changes are will be announced by this weekend's Masses and should make our Holy Week and Easter Masses/services more accommodating. We will let you know once we find out.

This weekend is Palm Sunday and we will have the palms already blessed by the time you get to church. The change during the Mass is quite astounding, we go from acclaiming Jesus as the Son of David and then we are crying out with the crowds "crucify Him."

It is shocking to consider that Jesus was so widely hailed by the crowds on His entry into Jerusalem but then was rejected or abandoned by all but a few of His most faithful followers. For us this can serve as a real gut check about our own fidelity to the Lord.

Some, like Peter and the other disciples abandoned the Lord out of fear. Pilate also gave in to fear before the angry crowds and the Sanhedrin who demanded Christ's death. Even Joseph of Arimathea who offered his family tomb for the Lord after His death is not reported as speaking up on Jesus' behalf before the Sanhedrin. Fear explains why so many people who believed in Jesus were not there with Him at the end. St. Peter who said at the Last Supper, "***Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you***" denied the Lord three times out of fear. How would we have responded if we were there? How do we respond now?

The only sin God can't forgive though, is the one we're not sorry for. No matter if we have betrayed Christ like Judas or denied Him like Peter the key is to receive His mercy and not despair. In the end, we are all responsible for the Lord having to come to us as a suffering redeemer, we're all responsible for Christ's Passion because of our sins. If we receive His mercy and forgiveness though, we can be like the faithful women, the Virgin Mary and St. John.

I've been meaning to offer something for some time now. This year, on Divine Mercy Sunday, I will lead the Chaplet and a brief reflection on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 11, the 2nd Sunday of Easter) at 3:00 pm. Jesus Christ loves us, knows our sins, and wants us to trust His love and mercy more than we look at our own, or other's faults. "Jesus, I trust in you."

God Bless!

Fr. Mike

