

Resources for your News

Sunday, 6 May 2018

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 15:9-17

1. A commandment of love could seem a contradiction in terms. Love is a free choice. That is what gives the thrill to the experience of being loved. Recall times when you received gestures of love from another – a spontaneous embrace from a husband or wife; a wave from a friend; words of comfort and affirmation – not because the other person felt obliged to reach out to you but because they wanted to let you know that you were loved. What effect did that have on you? Did it bring you joy? Perhaps you have had a glimpse of the truth of what Jesus said, that it is in loving that our joy is complete.
2. Often love and friendship make demands on us. Parents give freely of their times and energy to the care of their children but sometimes it requires a lot of effort. Also in responding to the needs of friends or spouses we can be challenged to 'lay down' our own 'lives' at least for a time. Can you recall when a time when putting yourself out for others bore fruit for them and for you?
3. 'I chose you.' Have you had the experience of being 'chosen' by someone? What was it like for you to be chosen? What is it like for you to consider yourself as one chosen by Jesus? That is what we are – chosen by Jesus to bear fruit through our love.

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Musings between now and the World Meeting of Families are kindly being provided by Brenda Drumm of WMOF2018.

MUSINGS

Jesus' light is a humble light. It is not a light that imposes itself, it is humble. It is a gentle light, with the strength of meekness; it is a light that speaks to the heart and it is also a light given by the cross. If we, in our inner light, are gentle people, we hear the voice of Jesus in our heart and look fearlessly at the cross in the light of Jesus ... We must always distinguish: where Jesus is there is always humility, gentleness, love and the cross. We will never find Jesus without humility, without gentleness, without love and without the cross. He was the first to travel this path of light. We must walk fearlessly behind him, because Jesus has the strength and the authority to give us this light.

Pope Francis, *Homily at Domus Sanctae Marthae, 3 September 2013*



Sunday, 13 May 2018

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 16:15-20

1. In the preceding verse Jesus had rebuked the apostles for their lack of faith. Despite this, he commissioned them to bring the good news to the whole world. Witnesses to the good news do not have to be perfect. There is encouragement for us in this. To whom have you brought good news? Who has been a messenger of good news to you?
2. Jesus then tells them that their witness will have quite dramatic effects, helping people to overcome demons, bring them peace and healing. Things happen when we have belief in ourselves and in God. Strong faith can enable us to meet and overcome difficulties, in ways that waverers cannot do. Perhaps you have had experience of this?
3. The Ascension marked the end of the visible presence of Jesus with the disciples, but he would be with them in other ways: 'The Lord worked with them'. Sometimes we can experience that death is not the end of the presence of someone significant to us. We can experience the unseen presence and influence of a parent, a friend, or an inspiring leader, after they have died. Has this happened for you? Have you also experienced the hidden presence of the Lord working with you?

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MUSINGS

Today is World Communications Day. This is prayer is often shared at social media gatherings and it is a useful reminder of the importance of the Church putting out into the deep of the internet:

Christ has no online presence but yours,
No blog, no Facebook page but yours.
Yours are the tweets through which love touches the world.
Yours are the posts through which the gospel is shared.
Yours are the updates through which hope is revealed.
Christ has no online presence but yours.
No blog, no Facebook page but yours.

Meredith Gould, *The Social Media Gospel*



Sunday, 20 May 2018

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

1. Jesus recognised that his disciples were not capable of taking in everything at once. Wisdom comes slowly and sometimes painfully. Hearing the 'right' answer at the 'wrong' time does not help us. We need to be ready and open to receiving the truth if it is to have any impact. Perhaps you can recall some occasions when it was the 'right' time for you to learn a truth about life. Remember your experiences of growth in understanding.
2. The Spirit can guide us to understanding in different ways. Understanding may have come to you when you were praying or reflecting on your life. Perhaps the Spirit guided you through the words of someone close to you, or through the words and actions of people you read about, or saw on TV. Remember and give thanks for the people who have helped you to greater wisdom in life.
3. Jesus said the Spirit would 'glorify' him by reminding the disciples of Jesus' own teaching. To whom do you give glory by taking their wisdom and incorporating it in your life? Are there people who give you glory by using your wise advice in their lives?
4. Wisdom is handed on from person to person, and from generation to generation, within families, within communities, etc. Are there any particular gems of wisdom that you cherish from what has been handed on to you? What wisdom would you like most of all to pass on to those close to you?

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MUSINGS

Families, come to me and I will give you rest

Dear families, the Lord knows our struggles: he knows them. He knows the burdens we have in our lives. But the Lord also knows our great desire to find joy and rest! Do you remember? Jesus said, '... that your joy may be complete' (cf. Jn 15:11). Jesus wants our joy to be complete! He said this to the Apostles and today he says it to us. Here, then, is the first thing I would like to share with you, and it is a saying of Jesus: Come to me, families from around the world – Jesus says – and I will give you rest, so that your joy may be complete. Take home this Word of Jesus, carry it in your hearts, share it with the family. It invites us to come to Jesus so that he may give this joy to us and to everyone.

Pope Francis, *Address on 26 October 2013*



Sunday, 27 May 2018

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 28:16-20

1. It is time for Jesus to return to his Father. He meets his disciples for the last time. His final words give them direction for their future. Perhaps you can recall such parting moments in your own life – leaving home, school, college, training, the death of a loved one. What was that like for you? Were there words spoken then that gave you direction for your future?
2. Perhaps you can identify with Jesus in the story, when as a parent, teacher, or in some other way you sent someone on his or her way in life, knowing you would not be with them as in the past. When did the way in which you parted help the other to make his or her own way in life?
3. Jesus told his disciples that although he would not be with them as in the past, he would be with them in a new way right throughout their lives. Have there been times when you were reassured by the love and support of another even though they were not physically present with you?
4. On parting from his disciples, Jesus gave them a mission for the future. Where, when and how did you get a sense of the meaning and purpose of your own life? How does that sustain you now? Is there any way in which that purpose ties in with the mission given to the eleven to spread the good news?
5. Jesus promised to be with his disciples until the end of time. It is a promise he would fulfil through the gift of the Holy Spirit. That promise is also given to us. What helps you to be aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit with you on life's journey?

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MUSINGS

For the light of the sun in the sky.
For the light which shines through the window.
For the light that shines early in the morning.
For the light that shines late in the evening.
We give God thanks and praise.

Solas na gréine sa spéir.
An solas a scalann tríd an fhuinneog.
An solas a scalann ar maidin.
An solas a scalann tráthnóna.
Molaimid thú aus gabhaimid buíochas leat, a Dhia.

The Family Prayer Book (Veritas 2013)

