

Fr. Jeff's Weekly Homily

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 20, 2008

READING 1: Isaiah 9:3, 5-7

For in that day you will bring light to the nations that by your mission will reach to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 40

R. (Sung and 92) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

READING 2: Corinthians 1:3-5

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

(Paper airplanes made from a piece of typing paper, a page out of a magazine, a dollar bill)

Which of these paper airplanes would you rather have? First, take a look at the . You can see that they are different sizes and shapes, so see, let's fly the . See—so easy to better than others. If I offered you one of the paper airplanes, which one would you take? I think you would take this one. It is not as good as the others, but if you noticed that this one is a dollar bill, you now know what to do.

Now remember the dollar bill is something that has been throughout human history. It is a great thing that has been created, and how Jefferson wrote that our nation is founded on the principle that all men are created equal. A rich Lincolndreded of a united nation of free men and women. Sr. Elizabeth Ann Seton dreamed of a Catholic school system. Martin Luther King, Jr., who our nation celebrates this week, expressed his dream that all people would be judged on the values of their character, not their race. And these people dreamed dreams and put their lives on the line for their dreams.

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said, Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. He showed in to the neighborhood, the New Testament process the good news. Jesus takes center stage and various individuals are

introduced on y to interrogate, respond, or react to Jesus. Fringe people stay on the fringe: Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, Cleopas, Pilate, and a score of others are ground to the person of Jesus, they point to Jesus and when they point to Jesus they are pointing to the future, the good news is not merely centered on Jesus; the whole gospel is Jesus. When the final history comes, Jesus is upstage of the famous, beautiful, and powerful people who have ever lived in the course of human history. Every person is seen as responding to Jesus. When John points to Jesus, it is liturgical content because the entire future is the object of his pointing.

Some think the crucifixion is once and for all historic event, they don't understand the difference between the great heroes of history and the living Jesus Christ, the body pierced Jesus of the cross is alive. Do you think he does not feel the pain of the suffering? Do you think he does not suffer when innocent children of God are killed in abortions or wars? Do you think he hears our prayers but doesn't hear their cry? So we think the incarnation is once and for all historic event, the incarnation is not over either. It continues today and this body and blood of Christ which we receive today enters our historic context and does us, becomes part of us and changes us to be his presence felt. Behold, the Light of God has moved into the neighborhood. In the neighborhood change now?

Before you answer, consider the alternatives. We chose this do because it had the most value not because it was the easiest way to fly. We choose to welcome Jesus to change our neighborhood because the greatest increase in our personal property values is rising with him. And that is Good News!

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