

I had a friend, she passed away a few years ago, and her name was Sr. Theresa. Terri was a Benedictine nun, and she said to me on more than one occasion, "Anything we do in our house two times is considered a tradition." Terri claimed that if they had an aluminum Christmas tree two years in a row, some sisters would say, "We have to have an aluminum tree. It's a tradition."

Today's gospel eludes to something in scripture which has been a long tradition of the Church, but not explicitly written about in scripture: the priesthood and, for that matter, the hierarchy.

Some people look at Fr. Kaz and say, "He is such a good man. Give Father whatever Father wants." But the truth is, by putting on the collar, Fr. Kaz has agreed to be the servant to all of you. The same thing with Fr. Jeff: He's the pastor, give the pastor whatever he wants." The truth is, because he is the pastor, Fr. Jeff is not only the servant to all of you, he is called upon to serve Fr. Kaz, myself, and all the sisters hear at Queen of Peace.

What about the Bishop? I remember, one time I was at a celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe with Bishop Galeone. A man whom I knew was Mexican came up to Bishop Galeone, grabbed his hand, and kissed his ring. Bishop Galeone did not release the man's hand. Instead, he brought his hand up to his lips and kissed his finger where a ring would have been. Our Bishop called upon to serve not only all of the people in this diocese, but all of the priests, the deacons and the religious as well. This is a long held tradition in our Church.

Tradition, along with scripture and the teachings of the Church have a long history in our Church, in our faith life as a community. But, how can we ensure that these traditions are accurately handed down? How can we ensure that they are handed down at all?

Man, and woman, do I have a deal for you! In early December, we will be having a class Sr. Bea has named, "Generations of Faith." On three different days, at three different times of day, we will learn together some of the teachings, traditions and scriptures about our faith, in particular with Advent. We will meet together as a parish first, then break into age appropriate groups, and finally end as family units. If you don't have a family living here with you, don't worry. We will pair together individuals and couples for the final segment to share the experience.

There is a table in the narthex where you can get more information, and you can register your family. If you find this to be an enjoyable way of learning and passing on our faith and traditions, and especially if you do it twice, maybe it can become a tradition.