

## PRAISE GOD WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING!

Fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

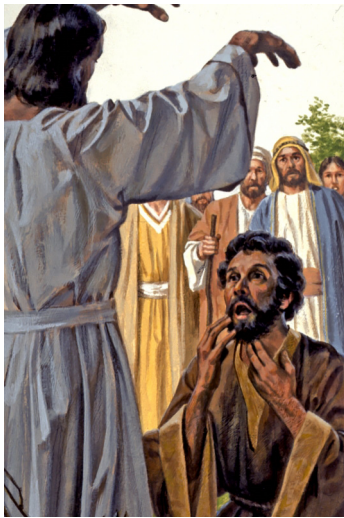
San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

February 1, 2015



### REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**T**oday's Gospel narrates the dramatic confrontation between holiness and evil. Banishing evil is the work of salvation. Jesus has been sent to do, and he does so with authority. He has this authority because he is "the Holy One of God". Holiness is "of God"; evil is everything that is opposed to God. Jesus has authority not simply because he is "of God", but because he is God, the origin of all authority, goodness and truth.



The "new teaching with authority" about which the people are amazed is not the healing miracle in itself, but rather the display of God's face-to-face Presence mediated through Jesus. Jesus is the authority of holiness incarnate.

### WORDS TO REFLECT UPON: GOD'S FACE-TO-FACE PRESENCE

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 1 Timothy 2:1*

Let us pray together today for the chronically ill: Fr.

**Please  
pray for  
the sick**

Vega, Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie Maziarz, Fr. Vega, Mirey Ramy, James O 'Malley, Sr. and Peter Fiorito. Let us pray together this week for families facing hardships such as illness, lack of work, discrimination, the need to emigrate, or a lack of peace, harmony and forgiveness, that God will show us how we can help some of them here in Puerto Rico.

### LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

#### The Suffering, Death And Resurrection of Christ And Our Participation In It.

Jesus' authority rested in both his word and in his power and willingness to confront evil. Bringing forth healing, goodness and life—the fruit of authority well exercised—is very much at the heart of the paschal mystery.

Paschal mystery living requires us to be so bold as Jesus in confronting whatever "demons" in us keep us from surrendering ourselves over to the growth and life to which God calls us. The call to die to self is more than idle talk. It is the ongoing demand in daily living to listen to God's word, know all that the Lord commands us and embrace the life God offers. It is the ongoing demand in daily living to confront evil boldly and not let it win. Only by identifying with "the Holy One of God" can we speak and act with his authority. Truly, this is astonishing and amazing Good News!

**Words to reflect upon: Paschal mystery living, "demons" in us**

**Loving God, You who dwell in our hearts,  
give us hearts where all may enter in, ears  
to hear your call, hands to do your will,  
voices to sing your praise and soul enough  
to recognize You in everything we do. This  
we ask through the grace of the living God.  
Amen**

*Important questions  
to contemplate from  
Fr. Larry's homily on  
January 11th,*

**If not me, who?  
If not here, where?  
If not now, when?  
If not for the kingdom of God, why?**



## WHY STAY CATHOLIC?

*From the book of the same name by Michael Leach*

The Catholic Church speaks of the “deposit of faith”, a phrase that points to beliefs and practices deposited by men and women in Catholic consciousness for the past two thousand years. What is the gold standard in the deposit of faith? Ideas that point to spiritual realities. Many of them have been forgotten or ignored for too long. We will be examining a few of them in future bulletins in the hope, dear readers, that they will bring a smile and a new awareness of the embrace of God to us all.

### THE SACRAMENTAL IMAGINATION

The sacramental imagination is a phrase popularized by Fr. Andrew Greeley who adapted it from the theology of his friend Fr. David Tracy. “Catholics live in an enchanted world, a world of statues and holy water, stained glass and votive candles, saints and religious medals, rosary beads and holy pictures. But these Catholic paraphernalia are mere hints of a deeper and more pervasive religious sensibility which inclines Catholics to see the Holy lurking in creation. As Catholics, we find our houses and our world haunted by a sense that the objects, events and persons of daily life are revelations of grace.” *The Catholic Imagination* page 1 by Andrew Greeley.

Catholicism, seen through the eye of a needle, is a religion of rules and regulations. Seen with the sacramental imagination, it is a unique take on life, a holy vision, a way of seeing the chosen part of things.

When asked who he was and what he did, Jesus told his disciples, “Come and see!” Who can resist an invitation like that?

### PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



*First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20*

Here is what Pope Francis said about prophets in an *America Magazine* interview led by Antonio Spadaro S.J.:

*Being prophets may sometimes imply making waves. I do not know how to put it...Prophecy makes noise, uproar, some say “a mess”. But in reality, the charism of religious people is like yeast: prophecy announces the spirit of the Gospel.*

Can you think of people who have caused an “uproar” or made “a mess” announcing the spirit of the Gospel in our time? Who are these holy people of today?

Does God raise ordinary people from our midst to become prophets? Is there a cause for which you might become a prophet?

## POPE FRANCIS

**VIRTUE:** *an habitual and firm disposition to do the good*

“It is no easy task to overcome the bitter legacy of injustices, hostility and mistrust left by the conflict,” said the pontiff speaking to the people of Sri Lanka recently. “It can only be done by overcoming evil with good and by cultivating those **virtues that foster reconciliation, solidarity and peace.**”



Three of these virtues that the pope asks us to cultivate are our traditional values of **compassion, harmony and tolerance** and that, together with the virtues of **justice, mercy, hope and forgiveness**, constitute a solid base for the creation of the society that Pope Francis consistently recommends to us all as the Kingdom of God.

### God speaks to our hearts —

“God has something unique to say to each one of us. God desires to speak to our hearts—words of love or forgiveness or consolation or encouragement or words that invite us to share more deeply in his life. He may want to say to us words of challenge and inspiration that call us to live more generously and compassionately and with more love to those around us. God always has a personal word addressed to each one of us.

I have chosen six statements to capture the flow and graces of the Exercises. They are rooted in Ignatius’s own experience of God. I believe they are words that God desires to speak to our hearts:

**You are loved.**

**You are gifted.**

**You are forgiven.**

**You are called.**

**You are invited.**

**You are sent.**

When we really hear and believe these words, our hearts will be changed and our lives will be transformed and filled with the peace that only God can give.”

*Excerpted from Discovering Your Dream by Gerald M. Fagin SJ*

### Keep in touch!

To receive the “**9:30 Community Newsletter**” send your email address to Laura ([laura@altamonte.com](mailto:laura@altamonte.com)), or give her a call at: (787-638-5380). You’ll receive reminders about activities and special events that affect our community life!