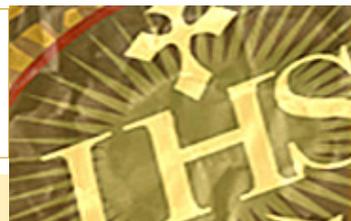


Your words, Lord,  
are Spirit and Life!

Third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

January 24, 2016

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

The same intensity with which the people of Nehemiah's time heard the Law proclaimed by Ezra (2nd Reading) is focused on Jesus' in the synagogue (today's Gospel reading). Their intense anticipation is met by Jesus' dramatic assertion that the scripture passage from Isaiah "is fulfilled" in their hearing. In the first reading Ezra reads from the book of the Law;



in the Gospel Jesus is the book, the Good News, the Word made flesh. Ezra interprets what he read; in the Gospel Jesus himself is the interpretation. Ezra's word was

an inspiring word that had power and moved the people to worship and praise; Jesus' word is a creative word fulfilled *in him* and continues in the Gospel in which *we ourselves* encounter Jesus and are moved to be disciples. The feasting, joy and new strength on the holy day when Ezra read the Law are now fulfilled in a new order in which the feasting is on Jesus and the strength comes from our sharing in the same Spirit.

*Words to reflect upon:*

**Jesus is the book, is the interpretation**

***Eye has not seen and ear has not heard what God has prepared for those who love him.*** 1 Corinthians 2:9

Heaven must be so utterly grand because as astonishing as my dream music can be, my ear has not yet heard nor my heart felt the eternal music of love, peace, harmony and joy that God has in store for those who just want to love being loving all the time. A music ever ancient and always new. A beatific symphony to accompany a beatific vision. On earth, the Lord comes to us and makes us holy. He gives us sounds to hear with the ear of our soul.



## LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

### The Suffering, Death And Resurrection Of Jesus And Our Participation In It

Jesus is enfleshed today in the lives of those who encounter him. Our own lives announce the meaning of the Word proclaimed and enfleshed. As followers of Jesus, make present his saving mystery.

Living the paschal mystery means that we continually look for the poor, captive, blind and oppressed among us. We don't have to look very far! "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled" is now true only when we ourselves respond to those around us who need a nourishing, strengthening, joyful word.

This means that God's word isn't something we only hear on Sunday, but becomes a living word in our hearts, inspiring us to be in our very selves living gospels. As we gradually grow into being anointed by the Spirit, we, like Jesus, are the fulfillment of the Scriptures.

*Words to reflect upon: a living word, living gospels*

### prayer

Where there is hate I can confront,  
Where there are yokes I can release,  
Where there are captives I can free  
And anger I can appease:  
Lord, grant me courage,  
Lord, grant me strength,  
Grant me compassion  
That I may be your heart today.

*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:

**pray** Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie and Don Maziarz**, This week, let us celebrate together as a community the blessings that fill our lives. **Remember, Fr. Mark's long list of Puertorican blessings for which we may forget to thank God.**

## MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

**Pope Francis** has remarked that the first word of his Latin motto, *Miserando atque Eligendo*, doesn't translate well into Italian or Spanish. (Its English translation sound no better: "by having mercy"). To capture the sense he desired, the Pope coined a new word in Spanish — *misericordiano*. "Mercy-ing" in English.



The Pope's notion that *mercy is not just an object, but an action* comforts and challenges us. Mercy-ing is a way of proceeding, a way of being in the world. Mercy-ing calls us not just to be merciful, but to be mercy. Dauntingly, mercy-ing calls us to be Christ.

Mercy-ing calls us to forgive the unforgivable, to look tenderly upon the unappealing and the troublesome, to be compassionate to the ungrateful. It demands that we give a full measure, packed down and flowing over, and to empty our granaries again and again for those who cannot hope to repay us. It asks us to open our hands and hearts, not because we expect mercy in return, but because who we yearn to become could not—did not—do anything less for us.

In the end, none of us is worthy of the mercy God has shown to us through his Son, the Christ, who came to us a-mercying.

— *Michelle Franci-Donnay*

**YOU ARE INVITED** to join a group of Ignatian colleagues who seek to announce the mercy of God through a hashtag campaign, **#MercyMatters**. The purpose is simple: to spread the message of God's mercy and invite people to take part in it.

If you witness one of God's merciful acts, experience God's mercy, or see, read, or hear something that reminds you of God's unending merciful love for us, share it using the hashtag on your favorite social media channels. Our hope is that the message of God's mercy spreads far and wide in this **Jubilee Year**.

- See more at: <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com>

## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

*Gospel Luke 1: 1-4, 4:1 4-21*

My daily living is a genuine interpretation of God's word for others whenever I \_\_\_\_\_.

What I observe, treasure and hand down is \_\_\_\_\_.



## MERCY-ING

*Some suggestions for keeping to mercy during this Holy Year of Mercy:*

- Resist sarcasm; it is the antithesis of mercy: "*Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth; keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips.*" Psalm 141
- Pare down possessions: share your things with the needy.
- Call someone who you know is lonely, even if you understand why they're lonely. Especially if you do.
- Write a letter of forgiveness to someone. If you cannot send it, sprinkle it with holy water, ask Christ Jesus to have mercy on you both and then burn or bury it.
- Learn to say this prayer: "*Dear Lord, bless (annoying person's name) and have mercy on me.*"

## POPE FRANCIS

A torrent of misery, swollen by sin, seems to contradict the fullness of time brought by the Christ Child. And yet this swollen torrent is powerless before the ocean of mercy which floods our world. All of us are called to immerse ourselves in this ocean, to let ourselves be reborn, to overcome the indifference which blocks solidarity and to leave behind the false neutrality which prevents sharing.

The grace of Christ, which brings our hope of salvation to fulfillment, leads us to cooperate with him in building an ever more just and fraternal world, a world in which every person and every creature can dwell in peace, in the harmony of God's original creation.

— *Pope Francis on The World Day of Peace, 2016*

## — LITURGICAL CORNER

The liturgical year is one of the teaching dimensions of the church. It is a lesson in life.

As we gather for Eucharist each Sunday, we notice that the color of the priest's vestments change throughout the liturgical year. We may see green, white, purple, rose or red. Hymns and readings also change. All of these changing elements help us to recognize the feast or season of the liturgical year we are celebrating. We will soon finish **Ordinary Time** whose liturgical color is green, the universal symbol of life and growth. Another liturgical season, **Lent**, begins February 10th with **Ash Wednesday** and we will notice a change to purple, symbolizing pain, suffering, mourning and penitence,

All of the liturgical seasons are about our journey to God and the transformation of our own lives, so let's recognize and remember.