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NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Help Wanted: Rummage Sale Volunteers for St. Vincent de Paul. Planning meeting, Thursday, April 21, after Mass. All Welcome! Special need in Electronic Area.

St. Vincent de Paul Rummage Sale, May 6 and 7. Drop off items Fr. Luehrmann Hall, Wednesday, May 4th and Thursday, May 5th, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. only.

Card Sale for St. Vincent de Paul, the weekend of April 9/10, after all Masses. Cards by Pat Adams & Carol Rooney.

Sermon for Third Sunday of Easter

What Jesus did for Peter at the beach, shows what Jesus wants to do for you. So what did Jesus do? This is the third appearance of Jesus. Did you notice nothing is mentioned about Peter in the first two appearances in the upper room on Easter night and then eight days later? Where was Peter? The Bible doesn't say but I imagine Peter was staying away. Peter carried a lot of guilt. He just denied Jesus only days ago. This overwhelming guilt was killing him spiritually. How could Jesus ever love me again? So Peter hid.

As Peter went fishing for angel fish, Jesus went fishing for Peter. Jesus found Peter after he trekked 70 rugged miles north of Jerusalem, to hide from Jesus. After the big catch of fish, imagine John telling Peter, "Ah Pete, I think Jesus just found you." Peter jumps into the sea and swims to Jesus before the boats arrive. Maybe Peter wanted to get his expected tongue lashing from Jesus over with. Imagine you coming into contact with someone you hurt real badly.

But what does Peter find? Jesus, the Master Chef, was cooking them breakfast. I bet Peter felt so relieved. You can't be too angry with someone you're sharing bread with. After breakfast Jesus finally names the elephant in the room, but does so in such a gentle way. He simply asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter was too afraid to ask Jesus "Do you love me." What if Jesus said, "No?" Jesus knowing his fear, then asked Peter three times to find out how much Peter loved Jesus. The first two times Jesus used the word "agapas" for love. Agapas is the deepest love, in which you would be willing to die for your beloved. Jesus probably looked at Peter's face and saw the pain this question caused him because the last time Peter proclaimed agapas love, he proceeded to deny Jesus three times, hours later. So Jesus, the Lord, Creator and Savior of the Universe backs off. Jesus changed the word for love to "phileis" in the third question. Phileis is a less committed word for love. It is like a brotherly love, but I don't love you enough to die for you.

Jesus knows Peter cannot yet make that commitment to give his life for Him. So Jesus lowers his expectations of Peter's love, knowing that it will take more time for Peter to offer Jesus the agapas love of martyrdom. Jesus tells Peter I'll take whatever love you can give me.

Jesus tells you today, "I know you can't love me the way I deserve, but I'll take what you can give. Follow me with whatever love you can offer. Maybe there have been times you loved someone more than they loved you. Any mother or father knows this in dealing with their children. But you keep loving and giving and sacrificing because that's just what your love makes you do. Sometimes you may love someone who has difficulty showing their love back to you. I did a 50th wedding anniversary where a wife admitted that her husband lacked the ability to show feelings to their children or to love her affectionately. Then she added, "I never complained because he worked for 45 years in a dirty steel mill, breathing polluted air and working his hands so hard, all his fingers are bent with arthritis. He put food on our table, put nice clothes on our kids' backs and paid for all of them to go to college. He may not wear his emotions on his sleeve, but his crippled hands never cease to show how much he loves." If you ever think God doesn't love you, His nailed hands are all the proof you need. Happy Easter

Why God Created Dogs!



Why God Created Dogs Cont...

