

Speaking of Parables.....

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our Parable, and for your reflections on Norma's situation.

Wow, how very generous of you that have written to me or emailed me your reflections and thoughts. Rhetta's letter is featured below.

How can Norma or Bridget change some prevailing perceptions?

How can they see beyond what they are told to see, or directed to see, or quite plainly just what they want to see?



— Fr. Gerry

Dear Father Gerry,

I wanted to write and share my thoughts with you regarding the parable you shared in your Homily last Saturday night at 5:30 Mass. Wow, your story has stirred up a lot of feelings in me.

I want to share a quote with you that appeared in Theodore Roosevelt's "Man in the Arena" speech in 1910.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

So, do I think Norma can be healthy in her new work environment? Absolutely she can. The first step she needs to take is to not listen to the critics. (her coworkers). They are sitting in the CHEAP seats! It would be easy to fall into that group but the healthiest thing Norma could do is to reach out to Bridgette. Spend time getting to know her. Be willing to take a risk and open up with her. She could ask Bridgette questions about her life. Make herself vulnerable. Bridgette might be in a lot of pain and need a friend to come alongside her and simply listen. She needs to know she is not alone. We all want to believe that we are worthy of love and belonging.

I would imagine there are lots of people in church who are sitting in the cheap seats. They are hurling criticisms from a safe distance. The truth is, their feedback is NOT important. It's the ones who are in the arena, getting their butts kicked who really matter!!

In closing, I want to share a personal experience with you. In 1993, I went through a very painful time. I was raging at my daughter and I didn't know how to stop. I tried to reach out for help in my church. Most people didn't know what to do with my honesty or my intense emotions. Through a series of circumstances, God led me to Al-Anon. I went to my 1st mtg. on Jan 25, 1994 and I was floored by what happened that night. I opened up when it was my turn to speak and I was honest about my struggles. Their response was incredible!!

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I received compassion, understanding, love and acceptance . . . as opposed to judgement, criticism and indifference. I still attend weekly Al-Anon mtgs. and God has used that 12 step program to completely change my life. There are 2 characteristics of Al-Anon that I wish the church would imitate First one is, people do not wear masks!! When you are in a good bit of emotional pain, you don't have time to wear a mask. The second one is there is no judgement of one another. It's amazing how much a person can grow when they are in a healthy environment like Al-Anon.

Thank you Father Gerry for challenging us at St. Paul's.

in Christ's love,
Rhetta Watt

February 11, 2018 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions ~ February 12-18, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Marie Lodes (RIP)

* Monday @ 11:00 am — Funeral Mass for
Larry Hollingsworth (10am visitation)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Bob Johnson (RIP)

* **Ash Wednesday @ 7:30 am & 6:00 pm**

Thursday @ 7:30 am — Roscoe Null (RIP)

Friday @ 7:30 am — Stephen Bizzarri (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Ruth Diana Barr (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Cash Medders (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Florence Cerami (RIP)

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Lou Runnels

Mayrene Messer, mother of Roseanne Horn

Rene Pierce, cousin of Craig Giamalva

Dr. Jeffrey Trexler, cousin of Catherine Heintzelman

Repose of the Soul:

Patsy Robertson, mother of Melanie Irby

Rev. Michael Coleman, friend of the Port family

Larry Hollingsworth

submit prayer requests by calling the Church office @ 601-992-9547

*Altar Flowers this weekend are donated by: Rush and Tonya Sweeney
In Memory of Antoinette Jean Holcomb*

Upcoming Events

Feb 11th — No Religious Ed (Children & Adults) & No Children's Liturgy this day

— What On Earth Am I Here For? Small Groups begin meeting.. Contact Sarah O'Donnell: 601-292-6089 or
email: fellowship@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Feb 13th — Youth meet for Ash Wednesday Food Prep; 4:30-6:30 pm; in the FLC kitchen

Feb 14th — Ash Wednesday; Masses at 7:30 am & 6:00 pm; Big Deal Lenten Meal following evening Mass; Youth will be preparing and serving a Valentine's Soup Supper so bring your Valentine!!

Feb 16th — Stations of the Cross; every Friday during Lent @ 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary; followed by a parish fish fry

Feb 25th — Altar Server Training; 2-4 pm in the Sanctuary; all ages are welcome to join this ministry; must have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Contact Dawn Clancy: dawn.clancy@rcsd.ms

Please pick up your 2017 Year-End Contributions Statements & 2018 Offertory Envelopes today!

website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

office phone: 601-992-9547