



....and the Parable goes on....



Thanks for your continuing the conversation.

I appreciate hearing from you Jim, Ben, and Bridget! Their letters are below.

Things are continuing to progress in the office. Continue to write in.

Let's see where this takes us! — Fr. Gerry

Hello Fr. Gerry.

I wanted to take a moment to voice my appreciation for your homily last week. Your parable led me to reflect on the Prayer of St. Francis.

St. Francis had many quotes that would go well when pondering your parable such as:

— We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way.

— The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today

— A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.

— Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and useless as when he is well and can be of service to him. And blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is afar off as when he is by his side, and who would say nothing behind his back he might not, in love, say before his face.

Your simple story illustrated what unfortunately has been seen more often than not. It tends to be easy for people to turn away from somebody who is going through difficulties, rather than reach out and give them the hope and faith they need to rise above and belong to the true family.

Often times people tend to turn their backs on someone who is obviously hurting — they do not see it as a cry for help but rather as an irritation to be avoided. It would be so lovely if more people would choose to answer the call to see beyond, and see the heart and soul of someone — no matter what walls they have put up or how many defenses they have put in use to push people away from seeing their pain.

You did an amazing job of illustrating how people react and somehow feel confident in projecting their shallow perceptions of others to those who will listen and effortlessly take their 'advice'. One should try not to be quick to define a person by singular responses (witnessed but not truly understood).

Do we not have time to listen to each other, truly listen? Not to the halfhearted booknotes and snap judgements provided by others, but to take it upon ourselves to delve deeper into the entire story. I pray that many realize that it is the most precious way to spend your time — especially if you can help replace someone's suffering with the Love and Grace of God Our Father!

When making judgements in life, I pray that more people reserve putting their faith in 'customer reviews' for Amazon purchases and take the time themselves to both invest in, and put faith in, others!

St. Francis sets a wonderful example when he reminds us that it is in giving of ourselves that we receive. I have always personally felt that the Prayer of St Francis is a good reflection of who we should strive to become. He reminds us not to exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity.

Thank you again for the parable. I have faith that it reached many hearts!

— Bridget Haag

Father Gerry,

Your use of the Parable is a break-through for me. What am I to do with such a "text"? I use Lectio Divina to become part of the story and to bring it in to become part of me. Then I can become anyone in the story and experience what he/she is experiencing. That leads me to the question: How am I being called to change, to move ahead, to serve? Ben Ticknor

(read Jim's letter on the back)

February 25, 2018 Second Sunday of Lent

I thought about your parable and listened to it several times.

Here is my completion of the parable:

Norma did not know what her relation to Bridget should be. Norma wants to fit in and be accepted by her new coworkers. She is tempted to stay away from Bridget so she is not rejected by the lunch group. But Norma is a scientist at heart and doesn't like to jump to conclusions based on weak evidence and hearsay. Norma admits that she is too new to the company and lacks knowledge.

Norma decided to ask Bridget for help to find out more about Bridget as coworker and person. Norma also decided to keep eating lunch with her coworkers to learn more about them. She decided to keep on praying, working, and gathering information to avoid jumping to conclusions. Norma invites the Holy Spirit to guide her by using her head, heart, and gut in deciding what to do or not do.

Jim Mathews

Mass Intentions ~ February 26-March 4, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Eugene & John Gooch (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — HE & Roselyn Pickett, Jon Pickett (RIP)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Robert Reckelhoff (RIP)

Thursday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish

*Friday @ 10:00 am — Healing Mass

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)

Sunday @ 8:00 am — Ed Shaw (RIP)

Sunday @ 10:30 am — Billy Brechtel (RIP)

more on our website www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Ed Hayes

Marge Daly

Rita McDonald, sister of Eileen Lawson

Rest of the Soul:

William Sharp Hendrix, cousin of Iris Harrison

Irena Szewczak, mother-in-law of Terry Wray

Church office @ 601-992-9547

Stations of the Cross; every Friday during Lent @ 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary; followed by a parish fish fry;
Contact Jane Hipp @ 601-946-6970 to help with desserts

Feb 25th — Altar Server Training; 2-4 pm in the Sanctuary; 3rd grade & older are welcome to join this ministry.

Feb 26th — Women's Guild Events; Trip to High Biscuits Tea Room in Ridgeland, anyone interested in going please meet at church @ 10:30 am; **Bunco Night in the Family Life Center Lounge** @ 7:00 pm, prizes and snack provided. Our Charity Box for these events will be for The Opportunity Center. They are in need of inexpensive flip flops, rain ponchos, back packs, chap stick, chocolate candy bars, and snack bars.

Feb 27th — St. Dominic Ministry; Providing lunch items for families of ICU patients;; leave in FLC before 10am

Mar 4 — Baptism Preparation Class; 2:00 pm in the Family Life Center Lounge; parents must attend before baptisms

Mar 11, 14, 18 — Spring Break; No Religious Ed Classes/Youth Group

Mar 19 — Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service; 6:00 pm

Mar 23 — Living Stations of the Cross; presented by the Confirmation Class @ 6:00pm

Mar 29-31 — Easter Triduum; Holy Thursday Mass 7:00 pm, Adoration 8:00 pm—midnight; Good Friday Stations 12noon
Good Friday Passion Service 7:00 pm; Easter Vigil 7:30 pm; Easter Sunday 8 & 10:30 am

Travel with Fr. Frank Cosgrove to Austria, Germany & Switzerland; June 23-July 4, 2018; \$4,600 (includes airfare from anywhere in the U.S.) Trip #4891 with Proximo Travel. Full color brochures on the back counter.

CSA — Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the Catholic Services Appeal. Our Parish has raised \$36,783 and our goal is \$67,000. We ask that God grant us a renewed sense of responsibility for the work of our Parish, diocese, and the church throughout the world. For more information or to donate online please visit www.jacksondiocese.org.