

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – MARCH 17, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Families,

How does God become visible to us? How does the invisible become visible? How can human eyes see the invisible? Notice the contradictions in these statements. Invisible means unable to be seen naturally, that is with the human eyes. How, then, do we see the invisible?

Jesus points out again and again that the answer is in “signs.” Jesus preforms visible works that can only be done by an invisible God. The miracles of Jesus were the signs. If one does not believe the signs, one is blind.

Highway signs are a simple example. **Sharp Curve Ahead. Slow.** If one does not read that roadway sign, one acts like a blind man. If you read the sign and slow down, it is an act of faith that is soon proven true as you meet the curve.

The Transfiguration of Jesus was a special sign to the three Apostles. The Divinity of God broke through the ordinary body of Jesus and illumined him so brilliantly that “the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lighting”. Luke 9: 29. This Transfiguration was meant only for the three key apostles as a way of confirming and strengthening them in faith.

In our days God puts signs before us. Often the signs are so particularized that they only touch one person or a small group, or a family. Sometimes we dismiss these signs as being simply a coincidence, a natural happening, a startling event. Often the sign is very quiet like the gentle whisper of the breeze, a song in the air. The Spirit of God is a breath. May the Lord in this Lenten Season help us to see the signs in our life and interpret them as the finger of God, God’s talking with me.

The Bishop’s Appeal and Haiti

Lent is a traditional season for Alms-giving to those who are less fortunate. The Bishop’s Appeal for Catholic Charities and our partnership with Jeremie in Haiti offer us opportunities. **Our parish has a goal of just over \$30,000 for the Bishop’s Appeal. Already we have \$20,000 gifted, or 60% of our goal.** However, this has come from only 70 participants in our parish. Envelopes for participation are in the pews. Many of you have been solicited by mail. I thank those who have already made their contributions.

Envelopes in the Back of the Church

Many of our parishioners contribute online. However, many of our online contributors also wish to have envelopes so they can put in the donations for Haiti, or other special collection such as Holy Week, etcetera. For those of you who still wish to receive envelopes even though giving online, you may find your envelopes in the back of the church.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
March 17, 2019