

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – APRIL 7, 2019

Dear Families and Parishioners,

When a person develops a dislike or even hatred for another, those emotions burn into the heart. The heart, influenced by the evil spirit, then drives the mind to find all kinds of ways to destroy the disliked or hated person. We find that situation in the gospel story today about the woman who becomes the pawn for the Scribes and some Pharisees to destroy Jesus. There is no interest in the woman but only in destroying Jesus.

Jesus has a great interest in the woman because she is struggling and ill. Jesus wishes to save her and at the same time offer an opening to the Scribes and Pharisees to change their way of thinking. Jesus is not concerned with himself.

Jesus could see through the veneer of the Scribes and Pharisees. He touched them in their heart but did it work for them. He gave them a sign but in walking away did they accept it or reject it. “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” When the Lord gives us a sign of our own weaknesses, do we walk away and accept or do we walk away and plot the next assault? Jesus tries to save: the hating person moves toward destruction.

The Bishop’s Appeal and Haiti

Our parish has done very well so far in this year’s Bishop’s Appeal. **The parish has pledged \$30,700** and *this comes from 138 parishioners*. While the totals are very inspiring, the number of donors is relatively low, 23%, for a parish of 605 registered families.

Holy Week is upon us shortly. For those of you who have not made a gift, even \$5, consider taking one of the envelopes in the pews of the church or in the back of the church and making a gift. If you cannot do this, still take an envelope and mark it that you will keep the Bishop’s Appeal in your prayers. Bishop Murry wanted all people to be part of the campaign even if only by prayer or by volunteering.

You might also wish to keep the Diocese of Jeremie, at the far end of the Peninsula of Haiti, in your prayers and gifts. Haiti is considered the poorest of the countries in the southern part of our hemisphere below the United States. Fr. Edward Wiczorek was the first of our parish to look toward this country of Haiti and we have continued in his tradition. Bishop Gontrand, S.J., thanks you for the support of his poor people.

Change and Growth

Last week I spoke to all of you about the inevitable changes that take place in life. Some of these come from the cycle of life where we each grow older and hopefully wiser. Some of the changes are unexpected events that come from natural causes or manmade activities. How we accept changes often describes the moods and composites we carry around as we meet others.

Every change entails a loss and also presents an opportunity. If you focus on the loss and constantly bemoan it, you become a sour puss. On the other hand, if you discover the opportunity in the change, the excitement of new exploration and new situations stir up the heart and the mind; smiles prevail. Both the season of spring and the Feast of Easter suggest that we advance our thinking. “Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” (1 Cor. 5).