



After sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door.

MARK 1:32-33

Grin and Bear It

This harsh bit of advice is more military than religious. However, it does carry some truth. There are times when there is no way to avoid hardship, so all we can do is find some way of dealing with it. This is the situation in today's reading from Job. He experiences life as burdensome. To make matters worse, life is too short to be able to get beyond the difficulty. So what does he do? What might most of us do in similar situations? Complain.

There is really nothing wrong with complaining. The problem is to whom and for how long. A large number of the psalms are complaints or, to use the theological term, *laments*. To complain to God can be a profound prayer, for it admits our human inability to fix everything. And, it presumes that God can and just might fix the problem. The psalm response continues this train of thought with a prayer of confidence that God will fix it. The Gospel reading then provides examples of how Jesus did just that.

These are not merely stories of past events. Rather, they trace a profound yet difficult-to-accept religious belief: when we are overwhelmed by hardship, we should turn to God and place our need in God's care, believing that God wants what is best for us. Perhaps the rest is out of our hands, but we must believe that we are in God's hands and, therefore, safe.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * *Hardship can test our trust in God. Might this be the case with you?*
- * *As a disciple of Jesus, pray for the gift of trust.*

Upcoming Schedule

| <i>Date</i> | <i>OLPH</i> | <i>Saint Boniface</i> |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| <i>February 6 / 7 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i> | 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass | 5:00 pm ~ Mass |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 5:30 ~ Mass | |
| <i>Thursday</i> | 5:30 ~ Mass | |
| <i>February 13 / 14 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</i> | 8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass | 5:00 pm ~ Mass |

| | <i>OLPH Mass 9:00 am</i> | | <i>ST. BONIFACE Mass 5:00 pm</i> | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| Date | February 7 | February 14 | February 6 | February 13 |
| Lector | Mandy Hall | Matthew Davis | Mary Jo Leygraaf | Jerry Nowak |

| Mass Intentions | OLPH | St. Boniface |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 6 / 7 | † Hazel York | Intentions of Catholic Extensions |
| February 13 / 14 | † Sister Sara | Intentions of Catholic Extensions |

| Our Gifts | OLPH | St. Boniface |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| January 30 / 31 | \$255.00 | \$205.00 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joey Reed

February 8

Sharon Nowak

February 10

Reading I

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7

Job spoke, saying:

Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?

Are not his days those of hirelings?

He is a slave who longs for the shade,
a hireling who waits for his wages.

So I have been assigned months of misery,
and troubled nights have been allotted to me.

If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?"
then the night drags on;

I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle;
they come to an end without hope.

Remember that my life is like the wind;
I shall not see happiness again.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Praise the LORD, for he is good;

sing praise to our God, for he is gracious;

it is fitting to praise him.

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem;

the dispersed of Israel he gathers.

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

He heals the brokenhearted

and binds up their wounds.

He tells the number of the stars;
he calls each by name.

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
to his wisdom there is no limit.
The LORD sustains the lowly;
the wicked he casts to the ground.

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Reading II

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Brothers and sisters:

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,
for an obligation has been imposed on me,
and woe to me if I do not preach it!
If I do so willingly, I have a recompense,
but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship.
What then is my recompense?
That, when I preach,
I offer the gospel free of charge
so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all,
I have made myself a slave to all
so as to win over as many as possible.
To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak.
I have become all things to all, to save at least some.
All this I do for the sake of the gospel,
so that I too may have a share in it.

Alleluia

Mt 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ took away our infirmities
and bore our diseases.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mk 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue
Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.
Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.
They immediately told him about her.
He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.
Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,
they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons.
The whole town was gathered at the door.
He cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and he drove out many demons,
not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left
and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.
Simon and those who were with him pursued him
and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you."
He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages
that I may preach there also.
For this purpose have I come."
So he went into their synagogues,
preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Gospel Reflection

In today's First Reading, Job describes the futility of life before Christ. His lament reminds us of the curse of toil and death placed upon Adam following his original sin. Men and women are like slaves seeking shade, unable to find rest. Their lives are like the wind that comes and goes.

As we sing in today's Psalm, He who created the stars promised to heal the brokenhearted and gather those lost in exile from Him. We see this promise fulfilled in today's Gospel.

Simon's mother-in-law is like Job's toiling, hopeless humanity. She is laid low by affliction but too weak to save herself.

But as God promised to take His chosen people by the hand, Jesus grasps her by the hand and helps her up. The word translated "help" is actually Greek for "raising up." The same verb is used when Jesus commands a dead girl to arise. It's used again to describe His own resurrection.

What Jesus has done for Simon's mother-in-law, He has done for all humanity—raised all of us who lay dead through our sins.

Notice all the words of totality and completeness in the Gospel. The whole town gathers; all the sick are brought to Him. He drives out demons in the whole of Galilee. Everyone is looking for Christ. We too have found Him. By our baptism, He healed and raised us to live in His presence.

Like Simon's mother-in-law, there is only one way we can thank Him for the new life He has given us. We must rise to serve Him and His gospel.

Our lives must be our thanksgiving, as Paul describes in today's Epistle. We must tell everyone the good news, the purpose for which Jesus has come—that others, too, may have a share in this salvation.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Marian Colette, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gary Hackler, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, all those of our families who are affected by Covid-19, and the Donner family.

UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS

Saint Jerome Emiliani; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

February 8

Saint Scholastica ~ Memorial

February 10

Our Lady of Lourdes

February 11

BVM

February 13

From the Vatican: February 17, 2021 The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has published instructions on how ashes are to be distributed on ***Ash Wednesday***.

After blessing the ashes and sprinkling them with holy water in silence, the priest addresses those present, ***reciting once*** the formula found in the

Roman Missal: "*Repent, and believe in the Gospel*" or "*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return*".

At that point, the note continues, the priest "cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places." He then ***sprinkles the ashes on each person's head*** "without saying anything."

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Dear Padre,

Does the Church promote adoption as a response to infertility? If so, why?

The Church indeed promotes adoption, but not solely as a response to infertility. Church teaching presents adoption as an alternative way that a couple might direct their generosity and desire to be life-giving through children. While recognizing the suffering of infertility, the Church also sees the great need of children throughout the world who, for one reason or another, haven't been able to live with their biological parents.

The call to adopt and care for children in need, however, is addressed to all believers who are able to help. The theological foundation for reaching out to adopt children is linked to our being brothers and sisters in Christ, and that we are called to be stewards of the lives of one another. In some instances, people feel called to care for needy children of the world by adopting them and bringing them into a new family to develop and grow.

In other situations, perhaps Christians could show extraordinary love by "adopting" a child or a family of children by supporting them in their own country through assistance to relatives who could not otherwise look after the child. This is obviously not like raising a child in your own home, but think of what it might do for a child in his own home country. A key principle that should underlie the care of orphans is "what is best for the child."

*From Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices © 2011 Liguori Publications
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Calendar

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| Monday FEBRUARY 8 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 1:1-19 Mk 6:53-56 |
| Tuesday FEBRUARY 9 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 1:20-2:4a Mk 7:1-13 |
| Wednesday FEBRUARY 10 St. Scholastica, Virgin Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17 Mk 7:14-23 |
| Thursday FEBRUARY 11 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 2:18-25 Mk 7:24-30 |
| Friday FEBRUARY 12 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 3:1-8 Mk 7:31-37 |
| Saturday FEBRUARY 13 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 3:9-24 Mk 8:1-10 |
| Sunday FEBRUARY 14 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 Mk 1:40-45 |



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The goal we must set ourselves...is that no mother be in a position to leave her child. But we must also ensure that in the face of any event, even tragic, that may detach a child from his or her parents, there are structures and processes...in which childhood is always protected and cared for.

ADDRESS TO HOSPITAL OF THE INNOCENTS INSTITUTE,
MAY 24, 2019