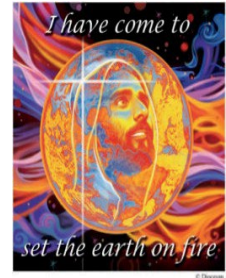


Theme: Looking for a fight? *Gr-r-r- r-r-rrourrrr..*

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

Last Sunday, Fr. Albert used as a springboard for his homily the words of Jesus: “Where your treasure is, there also will be your hearts.” He told the story of a woman, trapped in her apartment by fire, who trust- ed her baby to Firefighters, but not her “pillow”—the depository of her life’s savings. And he left us thinking about that: *What’s the thing that you can’t let go of? What’s your treasure? And so, What things re- veal your heart to others?*



This week, the Gospel challenges us to a fight.

Now in the house where I grew up, fighting between siblings was the surest way to gain a time-out (at least a sharp word from our mother). And we might have had mutinous thoughts regarding one of our parents, but we knew better than to speak them. We pretty well knew we were outweighed.

At first glance, it may confuse us for whom fighting was forbidden behavior among siblings to hear *this*: Jesus says, “Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth?”. And then, before we have a chance to answer, he says, “No, I tell you, but rather division.” And then he gives us a list of common family relationships that may easily become inflamed: father/son, son/father; mother/daughter, daughter/mother; and so on.

But what if we take a step closer to ourselves, prior to those relationships? What if we allow ourselves to see the line of division that runs through our own heart? What if the only way to real peace— beginning with ourselves and radiating out to all our relationships— what if the only path to peace—within and without—is living with Jesus.

Maybe it’s living with Jesus that will make it possible to overcome the fighting spirit in us and train for a life of generosity and love. Maybe it is in listening to Jesus that we are confronted with the ideas and inclinations that are toxic to us and those around us. Maybe if we face *Jesus in the fight* and see how he heals the rift *within* our hearts, the divisions *among* us will be no more.

God bless our Parish, and God bless you.

Msgr. Mike (while Fr. Albert visits his homefolks)