

Where Does Hope Come From?

John Shea

Every year I look forward to Lent, although I'm not sure why. I grew up in a Catholic neighborhood where Lent was a community affair. Everyone, adults and children, tried "giving up something." Although one girl in my sixth-grade class gave up her little brother, most people denied themselves some culinary delight. Lent was a deep breath that you took, held for six weeks, and let out at noon on Holy Saturday.

There is also the hope for some slight signs of improvement. I am always on the lookout for a better self. Lent triggers an "I can do better" tape and connects with my early childhood memory of *The Little Engine That Could*: "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can..."

A *New Yorker* cartoon shows two men in a dungeon without windows or doors. They are manacled to the wall by their wrists, ankles, and neck. Both have long beards; they have obviously been there a



while. One is leaning over to the other and whispering, "Now here's my plan." This cartoon made me laugh and when I have described it to others, they laughed. There is something essentially human about a burst of hope in a hopeless situation. It shows us who we are: people without a way out who are planning a way out.

Where does this deep hope come from? Václav Havel, the former president of the Czech Republic, was once asked, "Do you see a grain of hope anywhere in the 1980s?" He began his lengthy answer with, "I should probably say first that the kind of hope I often think about, especially in situations that are particularly hopeless, such as prison (e.g., the manacled planner), I understand above all as a state of mind, not a state of the world. Either we have hope within us or we don't; it is a dimension of soul, and it is not essentially dependent on some particular observation of the world or estimate of the situation."

Hope is not a response to what we observe or how we estimate what is going on. Hope is an inner quality we bring to life. †

Source: *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter*, 2008

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

Excerpt from *Ash Wednesday: Our Shifting Understanding of Lent* by Lawrence E. Mick

We dirty our faces on Ash Wednesday and are cleansed in the waters of the font at Easter.

When we receive ashes on our foreheads, we remember who we are. We remember that we are creatures of the earth ("Remember that you are dust"). We remember that we are mortal beings ("and to dust you will return"). We remember that we are baptized. We remember that we are people on a journey of conversion ("Repent and believe in the Gospel"). We remember that we are members of the body of Christ (and that smudge on our foreheads will proclaim that identity to others, too). †



Loving God, open our eyes to see in every person the face of your son whom you sent to teach us to love as you love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 12-17

Monday, Weekday:

Jas 1:1-11 / Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday, Weekday:

Jas 1:12-18 / Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday, Ash Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18 /

2 Cor 5:20-6:2 / Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday after Ash Wednesday:

Dt 30:15-20 / Lk 9:22-25

Friday after Ash Wednesday:

Is 58:1-9a / Mt 9:14-15

Saturday after Ash Wednesday:

Is 58:9b-14 / Lk 5:27-32

Bringing Home the Word

February 11, 2024

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Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
February 11, 2024

Jesus Embraces the Culturally Marginalized

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Today's readings are about forced quarantine. On one level they are about diseases that might be contagious. On another level they are about ritual impurity that was contagious. The Israelites believed that to stand before God in worship, one's body had to be physically intact—no fractures or missing body parts, no open wounds, no oozing body fluids. Skin lesions like those associated with leprosy made one ritually unclean or impure. Furthermore, to touch one with such a disease was to become unclean oneself. The ritual impurity was considered contagious, not necessarily the disease. Unclean people were socially and religiously ostracized.

Sunday Readings

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The individual shall cry out, "Unclean, unclean!"

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Mark 1:40-45

"If you wish, you can make me clean." ...[Jesus] said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

In the Gospel story, Jesus completely neutralized this practice. Touching the leprous and thus unclean man, Jesus not only didn't become unclean himself, but he actually made the man clean again. The issue here is not merely one of healing. It is a matter of reincorporating the marginalized man into society.

Unfortunately, out of fear or a sense of superiority, some people ostracize or marginalize entire groups of people. This bias might be based on gender, race, culture, sexual preference—almost anything. In this way the benefits of society are denied to those who are marginalized. One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness. Jesus rejected no one. He was open to those who society ostracized. He interacted graciously with people with diseases, non-Jews, recognized public sinners, and those working with the Roman occupiers—all people considered ritually unclean. As his disciples, can we do less? †

One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness.

A Word from Pope Francis

[Jesus] extends His hand and touches [the leper]....To touch with love means to establish a relationship, to enter into communion, to become involved in the life of another person even to the point of sharing their wounds. With that gesture, Jesus reveals that God, who is not indifferent, does not keep himself at a "safe distance."

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 14, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Which groups of people does society tend to ostracize or marginalize?
- Is there someone I fail to recognize as a brother or sister in Christ?



Parish of St. Vincent De Paul

"We as a community rooted in the Catholic faith seek to imitate Christ's
Examples of love and service to others and spread the light of our faith to others."
Parish phone: 509-234-2262 **Feb. 11, 2024** website: stvincentconnell.org
Fr. Lutakome Deo Nsubuga
Deacon Arturo Biebrich parish phone: 509-222-9223 after 5 pm only

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Mass Feb. 11, 2024

Lector: Victoria Ocampo

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Marv G., Wally G.

Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Wally & Marla Goade

Altar Servers:

Emmett. & Aubriel

1st Sunday of Lent

Mass Feb. 18, 2024

Lector: Marv Grassl

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Stacy F., Wally G.

Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Emily & Hector Lopez

Alter Servers:

Isabella & Nadia Holt

Pope's Prayer Intentions:

For the terminally ill;

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and
their families, receive the necessary physical
and spiritual care and accompaniment.

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's in Eltopia

10:30 a.m. @ St. Vincent's (English)

12:00 p.m. @ St. Vincent's (Spanish)

2:00 pm @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)

Saturday: 7:00 p.m. @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Adoration @ St. Vincent's

8:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Vincent's

Confessions: Wednesdays 6:30 pm @ St. Vincent's

Friday 4:30 pm @ San Juan Diego

Church Secretary: Elida Fernández - secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com

Tues, Weds. Thurs 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917; 12 pm – 3:30 pm on Tues. Weds. Thurs.

Prayer Chain: Call Carolyn Nordhus @ 509-234-5972

Breezeway Calendar: If you have any parish events or meetings that you would like
on the all-parish calendar that is posted in the breezeway please contact
Marla Goade @ 539-5354 wmgoade73@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletin: Please email Elida Fernández secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com by
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS for information to be included in the upcoming Sunday
bulletin. Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917

Website: To add or send information, pictures or news to the website please
email Jaeniffer Kaiser @ jaeniffer2002@hotmail.com

LIKE our Facebook page to get updated posts and information about our parish. You can also
see photos of all the activities that have been happening. If you want to post church happenings on
Facebook, please email Onna Pollock at olpollock@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Altar Flowers

Feb. – Altar Society

Mar. – Guadalupanas

NO CONFESSIONS

This Wednesday Feb. 14th

@ St. Vincent Parish

This Friday Feb. 16th

@ San Juan Diego

Confession Schedule

@ St. Pat's –Pasco

Wednesdays

5 pm – 8 pm

@ Sacred Heart- Othello

Wed. @ 5 pm

Connell Food Bank

Banco de Comida

Seniors: Tuesdays

3rd Edad- Tues. / Martes

Feb. 13 & 27

10:00 am – 11:30 am

General Public:

El público en general:

Wed. / Miércoles

Feb 14 & 28

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Thank You for Your Generous Contributions

Jan. 14, 2024

10:30 am - \$641.00

12:00 pm – \$514.11

Basin City – \$1054.00

Jan. 7, 2024

10:30 am - \$2324.00

12:00 pm – \$514.75

Basin City – \$1465.25

Jan. 23, 2024

10:30 am - \$

12:00 pm – \$

Basin City – \$

Jan. 28, 2024

10:30 am - \$2898.76

12:00 pm – \$913.85

Basin City – \$2179.00

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Meeting this Monday, the 12th

See everyone tomorrow!

@ 6:30 pm

High School Rel. Ed

No meeting this Wednesday 14th

students are to attend the

Ash Wednesday Mass.

See everyone on this Wednesday!

@ 5:30 pm at Mass

ASH WED. Mass SCHEDULE

Basin City: 5:30 am and 7 pm

Connell: 8 am and 5:30 pm

Eltopia: 10 am and 4 pm

ANNUAL LENT FISH DINNER

Friday, March 8th

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Everyone is invited.

This community event is sponsored by
the Knights of Columbus, all proceeds
go towards community projects.

FR. LUTA'S SCHEDULE FOR the WEEK:

Feb. 11, 2024 – Feb. 18, 2024

Keep Fr. Luta in your prayers

Mon. Feb. 12:

Fr. Luta's day of rest

6:30 pm Middle School Program meets

Tues Feb. 13:

4:00 pm Confessions @ Eltopia

5:00 pm Mass @ Eltopia

Wed. Feb. 14:

Basin City: 5:30 am and 7 pm

Connell: 8 am and 5:30 pm

Eltopia: 10 am and 4 pm

Thurs. Feb. 15:

10:00 am Adoration @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia

5:00 pm Guadalupanas @ Connell

Fri. Feb. 16:

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross @ Connell

No Confessions @ Basin City

Sat. Feb. 17:

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun. Feb. 18: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

2:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Begins Friday the 16th

At St. Vincent Parish

@ 6:00 pm

Followed by a light supper, all are
encouraged to join and bring some soup
(no meat) to share with all participating
parishioners.

DESERT WAY OF THE CROSS

Sunday March 24, 2024

Meet at St. Vincent's back parking
lot and for bus transportation at
2:00 pm

Further details on the clipboard
sign-up sheet at the entrance of the
church.