

Deacon Bob Corsaro
Homily 6-5-2011
7th Sunday of Easter year A
John 17: 1-11

Have you seen the movie “Pay it forward?”
On little boy receives a challenge from a social studies teacher to do something that will make a difference in the world.

So he decides to do something kind for three people with the idea that each of these people will do something kind for three people and so on.

Well the little guy gets discouraged because he doesn’t see the effects of his kindness, but little does he know that his initial acts of kindness have indeed spread like wildfire throughout his state of California and perhaps spreading forth throughout the world..

This little boy’s heart burned with desire for goodness to come upon others.

This is such a a wonderful example of discipleship within our world.

In Jesus’ prayer we just heard, “ Father, I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world.

I pray for them. Jesus prays for us in the world.

Our World. Screens are dropped with large image of Planet Earth from space.

Isn’t this a breathtaking view of our world?

What a miracle it is. Look closely...can you see the lights from the Church of the a Assumption?

Looking down through our windowed roof, can you the flame burning from the paschal candle?

Do you think God can see the flames burning in our hearts with desire to know God?

Not unlike the two disciples in their encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Were not their hearts burning with desire?

This desire is a gift from the Spirit of God that moves our hearts to respond to the appeal of Jesus. The Holy Spirit we received through baptism, The Holy Spirit that will be sealed upon our teens at confirmation Monday night. The same Spirit we celebrate next weekend on Pentecost Sunday.

The Holy Spirit guides us, assists us in giving glory to God.
The Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus, guiding and assisting so that Jesus could bring glory to God.

Looking at the big picture we know that God sent Jesus into the world and Jesus sends his disciples, us into the world, led by the Spirit.

Now, what is very interesting here is that In the gospel of John today, the word “world “ stands for the human society organizing itself without God.

Think of our society today, and the push and organization by some to take God out of our schools, our public buildings, our people. Oppression, genocide, addiction, abortion. Organization without God.

So.... What Jesus does for the world is send out his disciples into it, in order to lead it back to God and to make it aware of God. This is our responsibility, as Christians, as disciples.

The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord! Isaiah 11:9

Jesus prays for us in order that we might be such as to win the world for him.

So, as disciples, are we of the world? Or are we of Jesus while in the world?

Being of Jesus in the world, we are knit into the fabric of the relationship between God and Jesus. In belonging to and in relationship with God, we develop a relationship with God who is eternal. We enter into the eternal.

When we are alone and still with God we become aware and experience here and now something of the splendor, the majesty, the joy, the peace, the holiness characteristic of the life of God.

In Psalm 46:10 God tells us to be still know our God, as God will be exalted among the nations, exalted in the earth. What a loving invitation!

Jesus adds to this invitation by telling us, “As the father has loved me, I have loved you. This is an infinite love, a love of depth and unity. An eternal love bringing with it eternal life. A grace filled invitation and affirmation of love to all the nations, all the earth.

You know, as we look down upon our planet, its easy to consider human life past, present and future.

And through the glory of Jesus over 2,000 years ago, way down there (point to the Earth) we received through his prayer to the Father and ultimately through Jesus’ passion for us, the promise of eternal life.

And having been glorified on the cross, in his dying and rising , death no longer had a power over Jesus..... and Paul, in Romans 6 tells us that having been baptized into Christ death no longer has power over us.

Think about this through the words of Norman Vincent Peale: I believe there are two sides to the phenomenon known as death, this side where we live, and the other side where we shall continue to live.

Eternity does not start with death.

We are in eternity now. (4:30)

Let us again consider the prayer we heard of Jesus today:

In his prayer to the Father Jesus prays for himself and for us.

It is an intercessory prayer. Like the prayers we will say for others in a few moments. LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER let these words sink in as we are praying for others and ourselves today.

As I was preparing to preach to you today, I considered what might be placed into this suitcase. A globe would not fit. The suitcase is much too small; I couldn’t possibly fit the entire world in that suitcase.

BUT maybe I could fit it in another way. I realized I could fill it with little things. Mother Teresa said, “As disciples, ours is not to do great things, but to do little things with great love. (Open suitcase)

So here is my little black intercessory prayer book. You are all in it.

Some of you are in it specifically with your needs that you have shared with me....great things to you that may seem small in comparison to the tremendous needs of our world, but nonetheless, very substantial to you, the ones you love, and very substantial to me.

And prayer for the whole world fits nicely in here also.

Sometimes in prayer, I just hold the book in my hands, holding you and the whole world in my hands lifting you all up in prayer. This is one little thing we can do for each other with great love.

Jesus showed us through his prayer this wonderful way to connect here. (heart).

He prayed, “Father, give glory to me as I have given glory to you. It is in praying and caring for others that we do indeed give Glory to the Father and the Son.

How do you and I view the world we live in today?