

March 10-11, 2007

Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 3:1-15

First Corinthians 10:1-12

Luke 13:1-9

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do people suffer? Who's to blame for pain and misery? In an effort to connect the dots people assume that life is a tit-for-tat sort of experience: if you do something good, good things will come your way – if you do something bad, bad things will occur in your life. Unfortunately, connecting the dots of life usually creates a mishmash of confusion, a matrix that more closely resembles a Black Widow's chaotic web rather than a meaningful design. Reality can be a stern teacher, but reality is unerring in opening our eyes to life. Life happens. Sometimes good things happen to people, sometimes bad things happen to people. It is not unusual for good things to flow toward those who live good lives...but not always. It is likewise not unusual for bad things to flow to those who have sown bad...but not always. Some things happen just because, as human beings, they CAN happen to us. Cancer can come into someone's life regardless of whether they have been saint or sinner. A car crash can claim the life of an innocent just as easily as someone nefarious because that is what car crashes do. Of course, people will ask, isn't our faith in Jesus Christ supposed to protect us from these things? In a word...no. Our faith as Catholic Christians is about embracing the cross, of finding our way in relationship with Jesus Christ precisely through an embrace of loss and suffering. Who's to blame for suffering and misery...well, sometimes we create our own misery, sometimes it just happens. Why do we suffer? Probably because we also have the ability to rejoice and exult...and the opposite of these is suffering and anguish. As much as light produces shadow, so the capacity for joy incurs suffering. And what of faith? Well, faith is not to preserve us from the cross...it is to remind us of the continual presence of Jesus in our life AS we suffer. As he carried his cross, we are asked to pick up and carry our own...and in the process, be changed. It is through our encounters with the cross where we meet the voice which spoke from the flaming bush in this weekend's Exodus story. Relationships that have never been tested have a way of being shallow and frail. Through suffering and loss, our relationships with each other...and God...are forged. No cross, no suffering, no pain? No real relationship, no real faith.

Thank you for sharing this Lenten weekend with our Corpus Christi Community. Please accept a Bulletin on your way home, lots of things coming up...and you don't want to miss out. We are now accepting reservations for our Good Friday Prayer Breakfast, this year is a perfect response to the tone of this week's readings...suffering, hope, resurrection...but it all starts with suffering. Next weekend...we are starting something new, mentioned in last week's bulletin...a different priest face celebrating some of our Masses. Fr. Eddie Siebert, SJ, will start assisting us on a periodic basis...and next week he will celebrate the 10 and 12 Noon (yeah...at last we got somebody willing to commit!!!) As our 'early' daylight savings time lights our way to the fullness of Spring, remember, you are loved. FKB