



THE GRRAPEVINE

"I am the Vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

Number 85

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2009

CHALLENGE OF PEACE

Because we have been gifted with god's peace in the risen Christ, we are called to be our own peace and to the making of peace in our world. As disciples and as children of God it is our task to seek for ways in which to make the forgiveness, justice and mercy, and love of God visible in a world where violence and enmity are too often the norm.

There are the obvious opportunities to do this: seeking to heal our own broken or wounded relationships, participating in programs for peace and development, such as Share Lent, being part of local movements for peace. What are some of the less obvious or new ways in which we can continue to build God's kingdom of peace in our world? A challenge for all of us!

CAR FREE SUNDAYS

Now that it is Spring we will begin again with the 3rd Sunday of the month being car free Sunday. May16th/17th plan to walk, bike, skateboard, take the bus or car-pool. Let's work together to find creative ways to decrease our carbon output.

PLANT SALE



MAY 16, 2009

9:00 a.m. to Noon

1088 Gillett Street
at
St. Mary's Church
Parking Lot

As a parish, we have consistently responded to the needs of the poor in our community through our support of St. Vincent de Paul. The Society relies almost entirely on the generosity of parishioners to fulfill its mandate. Through your support of the sale, as contributors, volunteers and customers, you continue the response to the Gospel call to care for the poor.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO:

- **set up (6:30-9:00 a.m.)**
 - **work cash table**
 - **make, serve coffee**
 - **assist customers**
- **clean up (noon-1:00 p.m.)**
- **Bring cookies or muffins**

If you can help with any of the above, please call the parish office and leave your name so we can co-ordinate the work. Thanks.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Jesus offers a quintessential stewardship statement in today's Gospel reading: "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." Jesus Christ offers us the fullness of eternal life. Do our lives reveal that this is what we want? Do we believe that by hearing the Word of the Lord and responding we not only produce "good fruit," but abide in the very life of God?

MOVEMENT OF EASTER

During these latter weeks of the Easter season, our readings focus less on the accounts of the Resurrection, and more on our participation in the risen life of Jesus. The Gospel passages challenge us to live in Jesus, to share in his life, to allow him to nurture and care for us. Just as the branches with and die if they are cut off from the vine, we are reminded where we have life. In turn we are called to nurture and care for others and for the world around us.

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: The greenhouse is full and I look forward to the plant sale and getting the gardens in—I have plans for my new yard and lots of perennial seedlings and roots to fulfill them. The garlic is up and doing well! I'm in Prince Albert all this week for a meeting of the western region of the National Federation of Presbyteral Councils.

Jude: Isn't Spring wonderful! I am enjoying it immensely, perhaps because of our last winter. This has been an interesting week as we begin our planning for the coming year. I am enjoying our Wednesday morning Spirituality Study. And, hoping to begin some Bible Study in the Fall, I'd like to hear if there is any interest in starting with the Letters of Paul or the Parables of Luke.

Roger: Spring time means a change in the type of activities we see take place in parish life. From my experience there is more meetings and more travel. I was fortunate to be able to help out in Terrace and happened to be there when confirmation took place with the bishop being there one Sunday. It is interesting to see the customs of different parishes and to work with these similarities and differences. It is nice to see faith filled people using their talents/gifts for various ministries, making the parishes effective in their mandates.

ON THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY—IN THE EASTER SEASON

You never know where life will take you, how one opportunity or one decision will change the course you are on and render obsolete the singular vision you have adopted as the path to fulfill your purpose. This is the way of Jesus.

When he says, "follow me", he is offering us the chance of a lifetime. Drop your nets - whatever it is that scoops you up and catches you in its clutches

- and begin this great adventure of awakening the Spirit of God in those you meet. Come walk the dusty roads, come knock on doors, come offer light to all.

There is a stirring in our souls that yearns to be called, to be inspired, to throw out all the useless stuff we have gathered and time we have wasted and say "Yes" to Christ. "Yes, I will come and follow you. I am done possessing. I am finished with time. Come and fill my anxious, tired heart. Let me give as you have."

It is with this pulse inside us that we become one with Jesus, that we have a glimmer of understanding of his sacrifice at the cross. Filled with the love of the Holy Spirit we too have the burning need to offer ourselves - our wills, dreams and lives - up to God for His use. This is the glory of being called; this is the meaning of being a disciple; this is the way of a steward.

God's response to our prayers never waivers, whether His response is to Moses, Daniel, Mary, or you or me. God calls us each and every one to complete the mission for which we were created. "Being sent on a mission is a consequence of being a disciple," is the truth the United States bishops state in their pastoral letter on stewardship (*Stewardship A Disciple's Response*, p. 16).

Do not be afraid. God prepares us ahead of time for the journey, so we needn't be afraid. In his Gospel, Mark recounts the apostles finding themselves on the boat with Jesus when a "great windstorm arose." Of course, we know the story of Jesus waking up and calming the sea. He turns to the men and asks them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" Jesus' message is clear. "You are under my protection" (Mark 4:35-41).

We will receive the courage and strength to succeed. When we submit our will to Him, God prepares us, strengthens us, and gives us the fortitude to succeed. Jesus promises to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit to inspire and strengthen us. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever" (John 14:16).

Let this Easter be the season that we walk away from the nets that hold us in fear and comfort. Let this be the glorious Easter season that we fully respond to Jesus' call to follow him. Let this be the season we pray for understanding, courage and strength. Let this be the season for us to we act.

And so I pray: Dearest God, our hearts are filled with your love. Now fill us with your direction.

by E. Jane Rutter, Director of Stewardship, Diocese of Jefferson City in Missouri



A.S.A..P.

Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P. ?

Generally we think of it in terms of even more stress and hurry in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will find a new way to deal with those rough days along life's way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;

You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

In the midst of family chaos,
Quality time is rare.

Do your best; let God do the rest -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like your worries
are more that you can bear.

Slow down and take a breather -
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

God knows how stressful life is;
He wants to ease our cares.

And he'll respond to all your needs
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS

All who love to garden should feel right at home with the imagery of today's Gospel, especially at this time of the year. Have you ever cleared away the barren brown branches of winter in order to make room for new green shoots? Today's Gospel wants us to see ourselves as branches of the vine who is Jesus. Just as the stalk of the vine supports and nourishes its branches, so Jesus does for us. Just as a gardener prunes the vine's branches that it might bear fruit, so the heavenly Father prunes us. The Greek work for prune means literally to 'cleanse or purify'. The goal of this cleansing is to bear fruit.

The Gospel also speaks about "remaining in Jesus" - eight times. The Greek work means "to live, dwell or stay" and it appears often throughout the Gospel of John. In the first chapter, two would-be disciples ask Jesus: "Rabbi, where are you staying". The evangelist tells us that they went and stayed with him.

These two disciples are among those Jesus addresses in today's gospel, the night before he dies. Having remained with him throughout his earthly ministry, they are still in the process of becoming his disciples. How comforting this is for us in our own growth in discipleship—a lifelong process!

Today's gospel has much to say about discipleship: both how one becomes a disciple and how one remains a disciple. What is more, it leave not doubt about what is expected of a disciple: much fruit. Today, with the psalmist, let us recommit ourselves to faithfully fulfill our vows to the Lord.

- According to the Second Reading, what fruits do Jesus and the heavenly Father look for in us?
- How does Jesus' word cleanse or prune us? What is this word?
- How does Jesus live or remain in us? How can we live or dwell in Jesus?

OUR MINISTERS REFLECT

I felt honoured to be asked and unworthy and humbled. Well then again "why not? someone has to". I don't actually remember how long I have been a Eucharistic Minister (that's one of the title's I have had, along with Extra ordinary Minister and probably a whole "host" of others depending on what is liturgically correct at the time.....)

Over the years I have been given opportunities to learn about myself and grow. One way is in taking compliments. I would just brush them off and not really pay them any mind except to bask in them for a while. Then I began to discern about being "gift" to others and being "present". I didn't really think I had any "real" gifts or talents (like being an artist or musician or genius at something), I was just 'ordinary', nothing special so to speak. After a long time of hearing people say they liked receiving communion from me and that I honoured them so to speak, I began to realize my smile and look into their eyes was a way of bringing Christ to them. How simple! Thanks to You, God! Amen.

Humbly submitted by Moira Perrins



UNSUNG HEROINES: PETER'S WIFE

Do you ever notice that hindsight is 20/20? It's always been that way. At the time, when you're in the thick of it, you make decisions which seem like the right thing to do, only to regret it years, decades, centuries and millenia later.

I'm sorry, I haven't introduced myself. My name is... well... that's not really important is it? Suffice to say I am Cephas' wife, better known as Peter's wife. That's right, Peter, first among the apostles. I've been through a lot with Peter! He was a rough and tumble fisherman until he met Jesus, and then he became a rough and tumble apostle. Impetuous and headstrong, that was my Peter. And yet, he was a softy on the inside. Now, don't get me wrong, Peter and my mother didn't always see eye-to-eye, especially when my



father died and she came to live with us. But when my mother was ill with a fever (Mt 8:14-18, Mk 1:29-34, Lk 4:38-41), Peter begged Jesus to come and see her. It was amazing to see my mother so ill one moment and then all of a sudden her eyes had a sparkle and she bounced out of bed and was cooking a meal for us! I became a believer that day. Up until then, I wasn't too sure about this Jesus fellow. After all, Peter had abandoned his livelihood for this man! Peter and I left my mother in the care of relatives, boarded up the house and we followed Jesus wherever he went.

We followed him to Jerusalem that fateful Passover. When Peter came back to the Upper Room after he had denied Jesus, my heart broke. Somehow we all thought Jesus was the one. All of our hope was gone. But two days later, it was resurrected with the Risen Lord! If I thought that our adventures with Jesus were exciting before... well... they were nothing compared to what happened after that!

The next few years were full of trips to Antioch, Ephesus, Caesarea and too many places to mention! Pretty exciting for a Galilean girl like me! The other apostles also took their wives with them (1 Cor 9:5). Sometimes it was easier for us to speak to the women than those rough and tumble fishermen! We knew Jesus. We were there when he appeared in the Upper Room after his resurrection. We were witnesses to the power of the Spirit!

But, let's face the facts, it was a male-dominated society. Somewhere along the way, our voices got lost in history, along with our names. It wasn't always "appropriate" for our men to acknowledge the role we played in the new Christ-believers communities. And we were OK with that. When Peter lamented the fact that he couldn't acknowledge the role I played, I told him not to worry, it wasn't important. Sigh... that's the regret. Who knew that later generations would twist all of that and believe that the role of women was to stand on the sidelines?

Be true to who you are! Be true to your gifts and talents! Don't shy away from standing up and letting your voice be heard. It helps no-one for you to be a shrinking wall flower. You are a child of God. You are a disciple. You have a vocation and a mission!!

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Below is the synopsis of the April financial statement.

Bank Balance:	61.87
DDF Balance:	149270.41
<u>Accts Receivable:</u>	<u>1205.81</u>
Total Assets	150538.09

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations	22607.50	Administration	22570.20
Fees	1350.00	Programs	430.63
Programs	120.00	Operation/Maint.	3573.01
Other	597.78	Rental Operation	1787.93
Rentals	3720.00	Total Expense	28361.77
Total Income	29395.28	Net Income	33.51

This month shows a considerable drop in income, but that is mainly due to the fact that Giselle has moved, and so Returning to Spirit is no longer compensating the parish for her time when she is doing RTS workshops or other work. Our expenses for this past month also were reduced, so we came out ahead. When our obligations to Giselle are completed at the end of June, our total expenses will be reduced again, as she will no longer be on our payroll.

As spring advances and we move into summer, we will be doing some repairs and maintenance as well as regular ground maintenance, so that part of the budget will increase somewhat. It looks like we are right on target for our budget so far this year. Once again, thank you to all for your generous contributions.