



HOMILY

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER CYCLE B

BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

ASST BY DEACON BOB BAKER

Can you imagine how patience Jesus must have been? First he tells his disciples what will happen and how after three days he will return. Then how many times after he as risen does he show himself and they still don't seem to grasp the reality of what is going on.

The point is Jesus doesn't give up on them because he understands them and loves them.

That is where I'm, going now!!

How about us? Here we are starting the 3rd week of Easter. Is there a danger that some of us will slip back in to our old routine, go to church, say hi to our friends, settle in and let mass begin. Now what!!! I have to say, it is so too easy fall back

JMJ PRAY FOR US ST DOMINIC PRAY FOR US

in to the routine and not realize how blessed we are to be here. Is there a fear it has become so routine, that we take things for granted.

Maybe we're not confused as his disciples were, maybe a better way to express is are we guilty of becoming complacent? Somewhere we stopped listening!

Yet I realize there are some out there that would say:" "I didn't come here to pay attention; I just come here to take care of my obligation, -----how sad!!

And yet there might be another reason why some find it hard to be attentive.

I'm reminded of that song I heard a long time ago: "Leave your troubles at the door! Yes for some that is easier said than done. But ask for help in a short prayer to Mary, she will hear you!

Maybe there are those who can't believe that God really loves them that much--- that God sent his son to suffer and die and then be resurrected in our behalf?

Maybe this sacrifice of the Mass is more than they can comprehend.

Is it time to refresh ourselves on what is really going on up here at the altar?

We say we know, but do we?

We are still in the Easter season and all this celebration should be fresh, even if the flowers are starting to wilt.

JMJ PRAY FOR US ST DOMINIC PRAY FOR US

Maybe this is the Easter Season, maybe this is the Mass that we can take a refreshed look and remember that God loves you and me personally and maybe that will be all we need refresh our attitude!

The other night I was thinking about how we complain about some teenagers and how bored they say they are at Mass.

I believe the word “bored” is just an expression of “I don’t understand or have just forgotten!

I got to thinking; it is not just the teenagers, many adults, somewhere along the way they have lost the beauty and miracle that is happening on this altar, what unconditional love is all about!

Let’s look at why how we can become more attentive and maybe some of our teenagers will follow.

First the readings from Scripture called Liturgy of the Word.

Maybe it starts with when was the last time you picked up a bible and read the reading before mass?

If we have read the readings before Mass and follow them during the mass, I can almost promise you, you will have a refreshed personal understand of the readings and the homily.

JMJ PRAY FOR US ST DOMINIC PRAY FOR US

Then we have the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Remember that the priest is acting in persona of Jesus Christ. This happened at the last supper. What is happening up here on this altar, is not simply a symbol, it is Christ offering his body and blood to us in the form of bread and wine. In other words the fancy word is consubstantial

Then there is the old pay attention. I also know it hard to pay attention to every word during the mass, especially the parts we knew. I have to really concentrate on those words that we repeat every mass. But that doesn't mean I give up.

If your one of those that find your mind wandering when it comes time to paying attention at mass, don't feel alone. The devil has tempted most of us one time or another, but don't become discouraged. To give up is the Devil's pride!

Now I will try to tie this in with today's readings. Peter starts after reading the riot act to the Jews and how they were responsible for killing Jesus.

When we don't attend mass mentally we are not killing Jesus but are we offending him?

Then this reading in Acts end, with the message for us and them: "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away!"

Remember if we fail, it is not the end. We also have the opportunity to repent and pray for the grace to do better. Just as Jesus never gave up on his disciples after he rose from the dead he will never give up on you and me.

JMJ PRAY FOR US ST DOMINIC PRAY FOR US

With all this said I believe the biggest mistake we make is when we don't really believe in our hearts that we are worthy of his love. That can be the biggest stumbling block for truly attending and participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Remember that was the difference between Judas and Peter.

One didn't believe he could be forgiven the other ask for forgiveness!

So, what will you bring home today from the Mass, other than the bulletin?

I hope and pray you take with you **not just how much Jesus loved and forgave his disciples of their imperfections,** but a reminder of how much Jesus loves us and all our imperfections.

He wants us to never give up on him, just as he will never give up on you or me.

Then we are called to go and free others from their doubts, by telling them the good news that Christ has conquered all death.