

HOMILY 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT CYCLE B 2ND

BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

ASST BY DEACON B. BAKER



It was a rough year for the small coal mining community. Coal mining is difficult, dirty work under the best of conditions, but with the country moving to cleaner and cheaper sources of energy like natural gas and solar energy, the coal miners were beginning to see the handwriting on the wall. One miner expressed his frustration like this: “My life is filled with mountaintop experiences. One day, I’m on top of the mountain. The next day the mountain is on top of me.”

That weight is called fear and uncertainty. Most of us can understand his pain.

I can only imagine how Abraham must have felt climbing the mountain with his son Isaac. It was not a good trip until the angel at the last moment stopped him and he found a ram to sacrifice in place of Isaac. Going back down must have been a lot easier?

Just think here is Abraham preparing to sacrifice his own son whom he loved very much and then Isaac his son whom loved his father very much and seemed to be willing to do whatever his father wished for him.

You’ve got to be impressed with this respect and obedience between a father and a son. This respect and obedience is a good example for all fathers and their sons and yes daughters also.

I learned Isaac was anywhere from 8 to 20 years old, but very much a young man. So he must have had a strong faith in his father and his heavenly Father also.

When they were climbing that mountain, was their faith so strong that they knew, God must have had a plan?

When we have these mountains to climb in our own lives do we have the same kind of faith?

Hopefully we'll never be asked to give up a loved one. But he does want us to love him and his people as much as we love our own? I pray none of us will ever have to make that kind of choice.

This second week of lent is a good time to prepare ourselves and remind ourselves, if we stumble, don't give in to the temptation to throw up our hands and say "It's no use!?" Instead pray and ask for help, call on your guardian angel, yes it is still popular to believe we all still have one.

Just facing the secular world challenges large or small and it's so called values can be very difficult and some won't make it if they don't have the spiritual tools to climb that mountain.

We can make it if we just continue to build on our graces before and during this climb on our uphill journey!!!

But how do we gain these graces, it's called work, by fasting, journaling, spending time reading scripture and prayerful meditation with the Lord, taking advantage of the sacraments, getting to confession, going to Mass and communion as much as you can. Saying the Rosary. There is also during lent the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday and also the Stations of the cross here at STC and every Saturday after mass at HNC.

To give in to the ways of the secular world could mean our loss of our eternal happiness, but worse yet we could be dragging our loved ones with us.

Don't misunderstand me, climbing these mountains with the Lord can also be tough, but there is always hope and that makes a difference! What makes a real difference is when you knew you are never alone!

Many will stumble, this is why the church (you and I) are here.

This is also another reason why we must prepare ourselves.

We will most likely never know how through our love, teaching and good example has been that safety net for so many out there that needed help getting to the top of their crisis, their mountain.

Again getting to the top of our mountains isn't always an easy trip. Yet getting there is usually well worth the struggle, if we just hang in there.

Whenever we feel overwhelmed with life, use these gifts from Jesus Christ and the church, then you will be on top of your mountain and not feel so much like it is on top of you.

Yes, Lent is an excellent time to help us prepare to smooth these mountains into just hills!

And remember what Jesus said in Matt 11 "Come to me all who are burdened and labored and I will give you rest, for my yoke is easy, my burden light.

I before I close I have to leave you with this story from my sister-in-law's Deacon:

There was this church that needed their ceiling painted very badly. The painter they found was very good but -----he was known to thin his paint. But they hired him anyway.

When he was up on the scalpel he fell and lying there he prayed God save me and I will do whatever you want and the voice came down and said (are you ready)

"Repaint repaint and thin no more. AMEN