

## Deacon Tony's homily for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**'SAY TO THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE FRIGHTENED'**

So the first thing we should ask ourselves is, are our hearts frightened? Do we operate out of fear or do we understand that we are children of God who have been redeemed by our Savior Jesus Christ?

Are we aware of God's saving grace that grows endlessly in our hearts? And we know that God's grace is given freely as a gift then we understand that it is offered to all, rich and poor alike. It is offered to one who lives in a fine house as well as one who is homeless. We cannot be blind to the needy around us.

From our baptism we are told to walk in the light of Christ which is symbolized by our baptismal candle. We are told to keep that light burning throughout our lives so that we can see as God sees.

**SO THAT WE CAN LIVE A LIFE IN GOODNESS AND NOT IN FEAR.**

In the Gospel we hear of a man who is deaf and dumb. The Lord's cure for him was to touch his ears and put spittle on his tongue. Once again we are reminded of our baptism. The final blessing of the newly baptized is the blessing of the ears and lips. I am happy that we no longer place spittle on the tongue.

We bless with this prayer: May you hear the message of God with your ears and share it with your lips as we cross the ears and the lips. We must hear God's message before we can speak God's message.

So we must ask ourselves, are we fearful of sharing the message that Jesus has saved us to live a life of grace and happiness. Our children can benefit greatly from knowing this. Our brothers and sisters, cousins and friends are longing to share in God's blessings.

**WE LIVE AS PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FREED FROM THE BONDAGE OF ORIGINAL SIN NOT AS PEOPLE IN FEAR WHO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED BY THEIR CREATOR.**