

Deacon Tony's homily for the 3rd Sunday of Lent and the 1st Scrutiny

From the very earliest days God has provided for the people that He created. Not only the physical needs of the people, as we read in the first reading from Exodus, but for their spiritual needs as we hear from Paul in his letter to the Romans and in the Gospel.

I think it is safe to say that many of us living in Irvine today are covered by our material lives. If we are cutting it close, we only have to take inventory of our possessions or check our check books, to see where our money is going. But our concern should be with our spiritual inventory and the grace we receive from our charity and good works.

We meet the Samaritan woman at the well in our Gospel. What a beautiful example for us, she is, of someone who has devoted a lot of effort to the things of this world as far as her relationships with five husbands and even her many trips to the well for water that did not satisfy her. What she needed was a heart transplant.

Our hearts have an inventory of many things we need to provide for our needs. God may be among many other things.

We need a heart transplant to be sure that God is first and in the very center of our hearts. When we go to God first, many of our other needs will become less important and in many instances will be taken care of.

We find the answers to our problems and we even find an urge to share our answer with those around us. This need to share is known as evangelization. It doesn't have to be loud or pushy. It can even happen with no words spoken; only loving action toward our friends and our enemies. As a matter of fact, it is more effective to evangelize with loving kindness toward all.

The Samaritan woman went immediately to share with her neighbors who believed from hearing her testimony and seeing a change of heart in her. They came to Jesus to hear and believe from His teaching.

That is what Baptism is all about. Whether it is from the baptism we received as an infant or as an adult. It is the grace from this initial act of faith, and door to the life of God's Church, which our elect are preparing to receive at the Easter Vigil, which call us to be priest, prophet and king as a proper response to God's love for us.

We ask for the elect, who are being welcomed into the Church, to come forward and stand before God's altar. We also invite the entire congregation to silent prayer that these elect will come to understand the freedom of being a child of God.