

**Deacon Tony's Homily
for
The Third Sunday of Lent**

Our readings begin with Exodus and as usual, God is working on His plan. He says that He has heard the cry of His people who are dealing with being held as slaves by the Egyptians.

We can break to another time and place where God's children are being held captive and being enslaved by sin. We can pick any time in history but let's pick today in Sunny Irvine. We have sins of commission and omission that we allow to prevent us from a fuller and closer relationship with God. I mention our case because we can always draw parallels when ready the Scriptures with our hearts.

Back to Exodus.

God has every intention of freeing His children and so He chooses Moses to lead the exodus from Egypt. Moses is quick to remind God of the many flaws of speech and character that he has, but God has reasons for selecting flawed leaders. One would be to see God as the real leader and depend solely on His grace and mercy. This also parallels our lives when we feel unworthy to prophesy in God's name.

All we must know is the name of the one who sent us; I AM the eternal God.

Paul explains the trials and tribulations that the Israelites encountered in the desert and how they were dealt with. The Israelites were always under the constant care of God who provided spiritual food and drink. They enjoyed complete security from the watchful eye of God from the cloud that followed them. They ate manna as a holy meal from God.

We too live by the body and blood of Jesus in order to provide our spiritual nourishment today. Another parallel that connects us to the Sacred Scriptures.

God is so good!

Jesus always provides for His children's need based on their desire to draw closer to him. In our shortsightedness we might look at God's care for us being based on some wrong or right that we have done. BY NO MEANS!

So, if someone befalls a tragic death it meant that they were being punished for a great sin that they had committed. IN THE WORDS OF JESUS: BY NO MEANS!

God can read a repentant heart. Repentance means return. When we DECIDE to turn away from the darkness to the light of God's grace, God will judge our sincerity of heart and free us from the bondage of sin.

Then we will be transformed into a new person in Christ. We will have a new motivation and will act in accordance with God's will. This transformation will be a new way of life with the full protection of God's grace which He gave to us at our baptism.

There are things that we can do to open up new avenues of God's grace:

OUR PRAYER LIFE WILL BECOME MORE REGULAR AND LONGER

WE CAN FIND WORTHY CAUSES TO DONATE OUR TIME AND RESOURCES

WE CAN SHARE WITH OTHERS WHO LOVE THE LORD AND ENJOY FELLOWSHIP

TAKE TIME FOR INWARD REFLECTION TO LISTEN TO GOD

WE CAN SIMPLIFY OUR LIVES BY REMOVING CLUTTER

TAKING TIME OUT FOR A RETREAT LIKE CRHP

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE ONE YOU CAN WRITE HELP LETTERS

YOU CAN INVITE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE

GET MORE ACTIVE IN THE 40 + MINISTRIES AT STM

DO A GOOD DEED

If we make a decision to do any one of these things, we will bear tasty and delicious fruit to enjoy on our walk to eternity.