

Saturday Homily

Rare is the person who avoids strongly reacting to racial, social and religious differences. It's true for us today. It's been true for thousands of years. Look at the situation in the Middle East, in Africa, Ireland and in parts of our own country.

Jesus came to show us a new way. He did so by His teaching and living.

In the 1st Reading we get a glimpse of tensions in the early Christian community. The conflict is between the Greeks and the Jews. They valiantly struggle to overcome prejudices, hatreds and former hostilities. They want to become the community for which Jesus longed.

The specific issue in the reading is viewed from NEED. Widows need caring whether they are Greek, Jewish or any other nationality. The poor need support. The hungry need feeding. The orphan needs a home regardless of race, color or creed.

The vision of Jesus is: All who are in need are cared for by His followers and disciples. To the extent we live this out in our lives, is the degree to which we help bring about the Kingdom of God.

The Christian goal is to be open to all of God's daughters and sons. When we see one another as God's children, as our sisters and brothers, it helps us to respond to them in their need or want.

This week pay attention to our attitudes about others. Notice our visceral reactions to whom we see. We might discover some prejudices.

My sisters and brothers: Ask the Risen Lord to transform what is negative within us. Ask the Risen Lord to heal us of our prejudicial attitudes. We want to see each person as beloved by God, don't we?

Sunday Homily

GOOD NEWS: Jesus says that He is “going to prepare a place for us” in the Father’s house. Not only that, Jesus promises that “I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.” Jesus loves us. Jesus wants us to be with Him. Jesus wants to be with us. It can’t get any better than this. We are truly treasured, valued and desired by Jesus. This is the unconditional love for which we hunger. How do we receive such GOOD NEWS? How do we take it in to our hearts, minds and souls?

Today we are celebrating the Baptism of Aidan Isaac Darland. Aidan parents, JD and Amanda, have loved Aidan since he was conceived. Before Amanda became pregnant with Aidan, she was preparing a place for him by taking good care of her body and mindful of her diet. While pregnant with Aidan, DJ and Amanda were preparing a place for him in their lives, hearts and home. DJ and Amanda so love Aidan that they want him with them wherever they are. They spent months preparing for his arrival. They prayed for him. They talked to him. At times they may have sung songs to him. All of their actions were saying: Aidan we love you. We want you. We want you to be healthy. We can’t wait for you to join us in our family and home.

So, when we hear Jesus saying that he is “going to prepare a place for us”, think of how our parents prepared a place for us when we were conceived and then born. What Jesus is promising is on a far grander scale. We cannot grasp what one day awaits us in eternity. We do know that it will be a loving acceptance which we first came to know through our parents and families.

My sisters and brothers: Open up to the JOY of being loved. Jesus wants us to be with Him. Jesus wants to be with us. We are truly special.