From the Desk of the Pastor ....

The story of Jesus and the woman caught in adultery is well known and loved by believers and non-believers alike. The scribes and Pharisees use this adulterous woman as a way to get at Jesus: to set a snare and trap him. (Jn 8:1-6). They have no interest in seeking justice, and certainly no concern whatsoever for the woman. Their intent is solely to put Jesus in conflict with the teachings of Moses.

• If Jesus pardoned her, He could be accused of encouraging people to break the Law of Moses, which prescribed death by stoning for such conduct. (Lev 20:10; Dt. 13:9-10).

While the wisdom literature refers this grim prescription as a ‘dead letter’, the law could still be invoked as a challenge to Jesus.

• And if Jesus agreed that she should be stoned to death, he would lose his name for mercy.

Jesus deftly turned the challenge. He responds by simply ignoring the question of scribes and Pharisees. He does this in a very dramatic way by bending down and doodling in the dust. This gesture in itself explains that Jesus will not be drawn into this obvious trap.

According to the law, in a case of capital punishment, the accusers are to cast the first stone and then others are to follow. When the scribes and the Pharisees keep pressing for an answer, (Jn 8:7)

Jesus subtly turns the tables around right before their eyes, focusing the attention on them by declaring that the person who is without sin should cast the first stone.

Who can dare say, he or she is without sin... therefore, in an instant, the challenge is over and the scribes and the Pharisees leave one by one. relict� sunt dúo – misera et misericordia:

The woman remains untouched and condemned by no one. Jesus assures her that neither He condemns her, and that she can start over and sin no more. The woman rises from her fall into the abyss of death, to new lease of life, to proclaim God’s mercy. (Jn9-11).

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

2019 SCHEDULE OF LENT & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April

12th Thursday of Holy Week: 9:00 am Laudis - Morning Prayers
7:00 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper (English & Spanish)
8:30 pm - 10:30 pm Adoration at the Altar of Repose
8:30 pm - 9:30 pm in English (FPC) & Spanish (HPC)
9:30 - 10:30 pm Knights of Columbus (English). 10:30 pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

20th Holy Saturday: 9:00 am Morning Prayer
8:00 pm Easter Vigil Service

21st Easter Sunday: 6:30 am Salu Bong;
Masses: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 (Spanish)

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