

A LETTER FROM FATHER DANIEL CARUSO

4/7/2020

Dear Friends,

Today is Holy Tuesday. In the Gospel according to Mark (Mark 11: 20-25) it was on this day that Jesus came across a withered fig tree. He had cursed this tree the day before because there was no fruit on the tree. This was on His way from Bethany to Jerusalem where He would go to the Temple and over turn the tables of the money changers. We can see His cursing the fig tree a symbolic act against the barrenness of the people and their refusal to accept His teaching.

When He encounters the tree the next day, Tuesday of that first Holy Week, it has withered. Peter sees it and, remembering that Jesus had cursed it the day before, he Points it out to Jesus. Jesus, in turn, uses this as an opportunity to teach Peter and the others. He tells them: "Have faith in God. Amen, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it shall be done for him. Therefore I tell you, all that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours."

As we walk with Jesus during this Holy Week, I can't imagine a time when we needed to hear these words more. "Have faith in God" He tells us. Not faith in this world, not faith in ourselves. Faith in God. We express that faith in prayer. Too often we think we are too busy to pray, that there are more important things. Yet Jesus tells us that wondrous things can happen when we ask and truly believe that God can make it happen.

Many of us have more free time now than we usually do. I see on Facebook that people are cooking, baking, cleaning, etc. That's fine, but what about prayer. We should be praying like we never have before, trusting that God will take care of us. As Jesus said, "Have faith in God."

Let us pray for one another, Fr. Caruso