



"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

Isaiah 43:1b

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been my very great privilege, honor, and joy to serve as Lay Rector of Cursillo #193. Throughout the process I have learned to rely on God's guidance for everything, because, when I attempted to do something my own way, He quickly took control and changed it to the way that He wanted. In particular, my team choices went through several iterations before it became the team that He knew was right for the weekend, and I have to admit that I should have trusted Him more, because it is a truly amazing team. Really, it would have been just easier to let Him have His way from the beginning.

The weekend scripture was brought to my attention by the Lord through a couple of episodes of the series, "The Chosen," where Jesus called Mary Magdalene by her given name, instead of the name she had been going by while she was possessed by demons, right before he cast out the demons. Later, when Mary is talking with Nicodemus about her healing, she tells him, "He said I am His. I am redeemed." It intrigued me so much that I had to locate the scripture. Thanks to the wonder of Google, it was pretty easy to find. As I reflected on it, I was struck that this was a summary of the Gospel ... found in the Old Testament! I find great comfort in the words and I'm sure that, if you will reflect on them, you will too.

I chose Bartholomew (also known as Nathaniel) as my saint, because he serves as an example of how quickly and emphatically a person's attitude toward Christ can change. He went from scoffing to recognizing Jesus as the Son of God! In the Gospel of John 1:45-51, we read: "Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses

wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ ‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked. ‘Come and see,’ said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, ‘Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.’ ‘How do you know me?’ Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, ‘I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Then Nathanael declared, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.’ Jesus said, ‘You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.’ He then added, ‘Very truly I tell you, you will see “heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on” the Son of Man.’”

I want to thank everyone for all of the prayers for me, the team and the participants. You may not believe it, but they are truly felt by us all. I would also like to remind all Cursillistas to support the weekend by writing palanca and prayer chains and attending the Clausura on Sunday, Oct. 15 (please arrive no later than 2:30 pm). I also look forward to seeing everyone at the Diocesan Ultreya on Oct. 28th at Church of the Redeemer in Orangeburg.

Ultreya!

Keith Brooks

Lay Rector, Cursillo #193

kbrooks@jkbrosks.com