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Perspective (from an anonymous source)

Imagine you were born in 1900. On your 14th birthday, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday. It is believed that 22 million people perished in that war. Later in that same year, the Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until your 20th birthday. It is estimated that 50 million people died from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million. On your 29th birthday, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 30%, the World GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are age 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet. And don't try to catch your breath. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in that war. At 50, the Korean War starts, with 5 million perishing. At age 55, the Vietnam War begins and doesn't end for 20 years with 4 million people perishing in that (Police Action) conflict. On your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, should have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening. In 1975, when you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that? When you were a

kid in 1985 and didn't think your 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was. And how mean that kid in your class was. Yet they survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art, refined as time goes on, and enlightening like you wouldn't believe. Let us try to keep things in perspective.

To help us in this task today, almost half the world — over three billion people — live on less than \$2.50 a day. It is estimated that at present, according to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty. And they die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. Being meek and weak in life makes these dying multitudes even more invisible in death.

Perspective is where it begins for a sustainable change in our world that challenges any and all inequalities. A voice that remains silent in the wake of such injustice, is consent to the continued proliferation of the murder of these innocents. Perhaps now is the time to end the era of 'me first', and the beginning of a new age of genuine care and concern for the good and the wellbeing of everyone.

(Italicized portion my contribution)

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At this time then we are not in need of any donations. This can change in the future. When the need arises, it is good to know that this community of faith is so kind. Thank you.



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6th Sunday of Easter - May 17, 2020

“When you seek truth, you seek God whether you know it or not. Each finite creature can reflect only a fraction of the divine nature; thus, in the diversity of His creatures, God's infinity, unity and oneness appear to be broken into an effulgence of manifold rays. Those who remain silent are responsible and the deeper one is drawn into God, the more one must 'go out of oneself'; that is, one must go to the world in order to carry the divine life into it. Do not accept anything as love which lacks truth.” Edith Stein

Parables Lead Us To The Inner Being With God

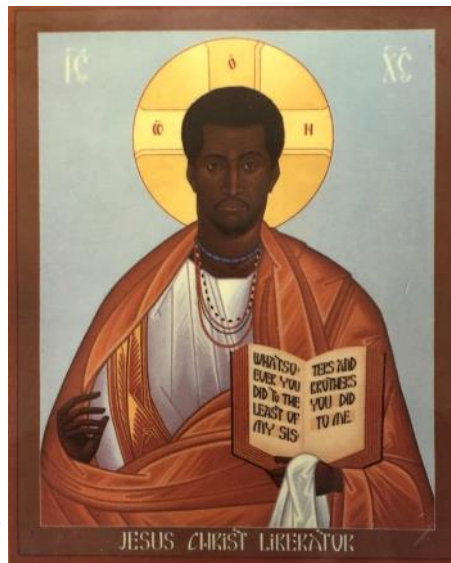
“I suspect Jesus was pointing to the same transformation in seeing and hearing when he said that it took “parables” to subvert our unconscious worldview—and thereby expose its illusions, even to us. Parables should make us a bit uncomfortable if we are really “hearing” them. If we fit them nicely into our business-as-usual world, parables have not served their purpose. A parable is supposed to change our operative world-view and unlock it from the inside—so that we can see and hear reality correctly. New and full context allows us to read *text* truthfully. All religions have tried to do the same thing with riddles and koans and mythic stories. Our whole universe has to be rearranged truthfully before individual teachings can be heard correctly. What we have done for centuries in the West is give people new moral and doctrinal teaching without rearranging their mythic worldview. It does not work. It leads nowhere new—or nowhere truly old for that matter. It creates legalists, ritualists, minimalists, and literalists, who always kill the spirit of a thing (except in mathematics). It is the art of reading and transforming the soul into godly truth ... It subverts our unconscious and truly “mythical” worldview so that God can get in. That was the precise function of most of Jesus’ parables.

This subversive rearrangement of reality is called “conversion” and biblically has nothing to do with joining a denomination or accepting a new religious set of practices. I am personally convinced

that this transfigured universe is the only thing that Jesus means by “the Truth.” This is the only Truth big enough to “set you free,” which any little doctrinal or moral certitudes about anything cannot do. If we are unwilling to live askew for a while, to be set off balance, to wait on the ever spacious threshold, we remain in the same old room for all our lives. If we will not balance knowing with a kind of open ended not knowing—nothing new seems to happen. Thus it is called “faith” and demands living with a certain degree of anxiety and holding a very real amount of tension.

We have to be trained how to do this. The only two things that are strong enough to accomplish this training are suffering and prayer. These two golden paths lead to a different shape of meaning, a different sized universe, a different set of securities and goals, and always a different Center. Only suffering and prayer are strong enough to decentralize both the ego and the superego. The practice of prayer we can choose to do ourselves; the suffering is done to us. But we have to be ready to learn from it when it happens and not waste time looking for someone to blame for our unnecessary suffering. That takes some good and strong teaching too ... It is the things that you cannot do anything about and the things that you cannot do anything with that do something with you.”

(excerpt from “The Enneagram A Christian Perspective” Richard Rohr & Andreas Ebert)



“I am with you to the end of the age.”

John 28.20

Next Sunday May 24th – **The Ascension**

“We cannot wait for the world to turn, for times to change that we might change with them, for the revolution to come and carry us around in its new course.

We are the future. We are the revolution.”

Beatrice Bruteau

If Jesus Was Non-violent, How Do You Explain The Cleansing Of The Temple?

If ever there was a time that context means everything, then here it is. The context that I am speaking of is not merely what is occurring in this gospel passage, which in itself is important, but it is to place this event within a much larger context. What I believe to be important is that we keep in mind that nothing just happens, but that everything that occurs has a history, a purpose and a lesson to teach us. It is essential to look within the teachings that Jesus provides for us, to appreciate the deeper and fuller meaning. The cleansing of the temple was a lesson and not a punishment.

During Jesus’ time, there was a section of the Temple afforded to the Gentiles to offer their prayers and offerings to God. However, this area was now being used as a place of commerce, which prevented anyone from entering. Most brilliantly, Jesus challenges this practice by reminding the faithful and the upright that what they were doing was against the Law of God. God’s holy place is a place for all peoples to gather and freely worship. To exclude anyone would be an affront to who God is for everyone. He dramatically clears the area out so that it may return to its original purpose. The religious leaders knew what this area had been designated for, but intentionally manipulated the Law for their own ends. It is unfortunate that this is lost on them. They had justified their actions on the basis of their own, man-made religious beliefs and practices.

Jesus was teaching everyone there that day of what they ought to have known. But this in itself is not all that was taking place. He is challenging their view on reality, what they hold to be true, and this is rarely received graciously. He knew that without an interior conversion of mind and heart, what he was doing would be met with repulsion and violence. Jesus is being true to form in that he knows that the only way to get a response is to be provocative. He knows there will be push back, but this will not deter him from providing a teaching meant for everyone’s good and positive wellbeing.

So, this is not an example of Jesus “loosing it on the people” in some justified righteous anger. Rather, he is saying to them that they have defiled his father’s house, because they have more importantly, first defiled the temple of their own bodies and being. Everything Jesus says and does is about over turning the “tables” of our myopic and self-serving beliefs, customs, and cultural practices. In turn, “driving out” our attachment to things in this world that prevent us from truly and fully grasping the significance of God’s teachings. Jesus was unveiling the lack of honesty and sincerity in their covenant relationship with God.

He was not doing harm to anyone that day, but was challenging them to wake up and to change their lives. He was trying to heal their interior blindness and hardness of heart. Any transformation will involve upheaval. A change of heart and mind means: what was, will no longer be. He was doing this because of love for all people. pah

We Remember our Faithful Departed especially **Joseph Knobelsdorf & Pasquale “Tony” Asturi ...** through our sadness our love shines through, helping us back in time to remember them with Joy

AND

We join our prayers for those who are ill at this time ...

Rebecca Muzzi, Ian Bruce, Pamela Festing, Joe Hanrath, David Phillips, John Schreurs, Connie Gregory, Kristina Lenart, Robert Foley, Steven Knox, Claudette Mainville, Michael Brown, Brian Dittmar, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez & Ruth Anne Foley

And let us pray for those who are so tirelessly working to take care of those who are ill at this time. May they remain safe, healthy and well.

We are encouraged to “physically distance” ourselves, for the common good of everyone’s health.

This is no reason to “Socially Forget.”

Reach out to those who maybe most vulnerable at this time to ensure they are well, or whether they are in need of anything. Be Safe, Be Thoughtful

Please visit our website to see what is going on through our Parish Calendar and so much more.

Website address: maryassumptionparish.com

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I hope you are faring well under these conditions. I wish to thank all who have so graciously been reaching out to one another, ensuring that others spirits, minds and hearts continue to flourish. I would also like to thank you for remaining so patient with how things are unfolding. Your care for one another is helping everyone to be well and remain as healthy as possible. Finally, thank you to all who have been able to continue to support the St. Vincent de Paul Society and our Parish Church through your donations. Your faith in action is a sign of your good will that extends beyond ourselves. Peace and good will. Fr. Paul

**May 9th/10th
Weekend Offertory
\$2,890.03**

Thank you for your continued kindness and participation in your parish church, through your time, talent and generous offerings. Peace.