# “Captured”

Last week, we were introduced to the topic of “created,” we learned that there is something rather than nothing, that God exist, He is all good, all loving, He made the world good and made humanity very good. God created us, so we can share in His own divine life. As we continue our reflection on Kerygma (Proclamation of the Good News,) this week, we are going to take a look at “Capture.” As St. Paul said, our enemies are not flesh and blood but the evil one and his demons. Satan is a tyrant, and a thief. His mission is to steal, kill, and destroy. As Jesus called him, he **“is a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies”** (John 8:44).

Some of the lies the world, tells us is that God is not all powerful or else, why do we have suffering and evil in the world? The world says, God does not exist; and if He exists, He must be asleep and does not care about us. These are some of the lies satan uses to capture some of us who are not knowledgeable in the word of God. Those who do not pay attention and learn about why and what Jesus taught us through the prophets of old and when He came into our world in Person to teach us. As Scripture told us, “They shall be taught by God. (Isaiah 54:13). To these people, satan tells them to create their own “happiness,” by going after power, money, status, sex and pleasure. A vicious battle is going on for the hearts and souls and mind of this generation.

No human power or plan is strong enough to defeat the evil one in his attacks on the souls of our young people. It is God alone who holds the answer. The devil has created a tsunami of secularism to attack the young people of our generation who do not have God as the center of their lives. It has gotten so bad that if you do not go along with their ideology, you are labeled as, a “bully.” We need a renewal proclamation of the Good News of Christ, to the people of our time to imitate. We who are believers of Christ need to let our light shine more brightly for the world to see, especially, to those in our generation or post Christian society who no longer believe or practice the faith and are now called the “none,” so that the work of the evil one would be destroyed.

Philosophy would tell us our lives and the world are messed up because there is good and evil, but, it cannot tell us why! We, can only understand why, through faith in and what God has revealed to us in Tradition and Sacred Scripture. In essence, we have been captured by the evil one who was created as Lucifer, which means “The bearer of Light,” who out of arrogance and disobedience, became Satan, (Hebrew) The Adversary,” “The Accuser”, “The evil one” “The Devil” (Greek), “The Divider,” or “The one who scatters.” Fr. Ricardo came up with an analogy that explains better what happens to us when Tradition and Sacred Scripture are used!

Fr. Ricardo used the analogy of a game film. If you are on a sport’s team, you are going to prepare for a game by watching films of your opponent to figure out their tendencies or moves in every scenario that could happen during a game. You want to know ahead of the game what they like to do so you could come up with a game plan that would help you stop them from getting the better of you. For example, when it is football, you will find out what your opponent would most likely do when they need a yard for a first down close to the goal line or when it is third and long, who would they likely throw the ball to? So you would be ready to tackle that person. If they line up in a certain formation, they would do this or that.

Sacred Scripture and Tradition passed on through the Apostles does the same thing for us. They tell the whole story of our salvation. However, they tells us more about our opponent. They tells us what God does and how He is acting in our lives. The Scripture and Tradition does not just tell us what happened in the past, they tells us what is happening and what would happen in the future in other words, they are living. They show us the game film of our enemy. They tell us who our enemy is and how he operates. They tell us what the devil does. This is how he uses deception to come at us so he could pull a wool over our eyes so we can offend God. These are his plays he runs at us when we are tired. However, He only runs one single play with variations.

Who is our enemy? It is Satan and his demons. They are all fallen angels. God has prepared hell for them. Like us humans, they were created good and out of love and for Love. They were created to give glory and honor to God before our first parents were created. They are pure spirits and much more powerful than we are. If we reflect on any time an angel appears to someone in Scripture, their sight overwhelms them. Even Mary who was sinless was told by angel Gabriel not to be afraid. They were created on the first day when God said, let there be light. As Scripture tells us the sun, moon and stars were created later.

We are told that Lucifer and his demons at the moment of their creation, refused to serve God after realizing that the only Son of God would take on human nature to save humanity. In his pride, he consider humans inferior to angels. Their refusal separated them from God. He and a third of the angels became enemies of God and they were committed to do evil and destroy humanity who are created in the image and likeness of God. In short, this is the origin of all evil. God did not make evil or suffering. Evil and Suffering are the consequence of sin and disobedience to God.

Satan’s game plan was, first, he introduce doubt to our first parents. He lied to them, so they would doubt the sincerity and goodness of God. “*You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know good and evil.”* God made us, in His image and likeness for Himself, out of love. He desires eternal destiny for us, so we can be with Him for eternity in heaven and share in His divine nature. But through disobedience of our first parents, sin, suffering, and evil came into the world. Of course, the devil did not tell them the whole truth. He as the father of lies, did not tell them that the consequences of sin or disobedience to God, is death and separation from God and that is why the world and our lives are so messed up. He captured humanity by discerption.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask for God’s grace that we will always recognize Satan’s game plan and defeat him at his game.