



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

April 24, 2022

Second Sunday of Easter

THERE IS ALWAYS ONE! Many of us have heard the phrase, “there is always one,” in your social, personal, or professional life. Have you ever heard yourself say the following about someone: This ‘one’ always has something to say? This ‘one’ is always grumpy and negative? Have you ever looked back at photos and think that about the ‘one’ who ruined a perfectly good shot? Do you have that ‘one’ who makes you feel special, like you’re worth something? Have you ever been the ‘one’? This phrase shows the power of our Creator to make us unique, yet made the same in His divine image. By His death and resurrection, Jesus the Christ is the one who redeemed us. He did not fit the mold of the expected Messiah, yet He is the one. Jesus is the “One”, the conqueror of death, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning, and the end of all things. Jesus, the Word of God, is the beginning because He created all things; He is the end, because all things are called according to His purpose. He holds the keys to life and death. He opens our hearts, to be like His heart to others. Jesus constantly calls us to be closer to Him and to be “the one”, who makes a positive difference in the lives of others. He is always, The One.

Last Sunday’s Gospel showed that Jesus is the ONE who conquered sin and death. Mary of Magdala, Peter and John were the ones to go to the tomb and find the tomb empty. John’s resurrection narratives are focused on getting out of the tomb, i.e., opening doors. Interestingly, there is always one, Thomas; someone who asks a question, is not present, or risks safety for the truth of the Gospel. John’s Gospel shows us how to be the one who makes a positive difference in the lives of others. God calls us to be the one to bring His mercy into the lives of others. God calls each one of us because His mercy extends to all. His mercy is not restricted by doubt. His mercy overcomes fear. His mercy gives peace.

After Jesus’ crucifixion, His followers fled and scattered, hiding themselves from the authorities, cringing from any consequences of their discipleship behind closed doors. Then the resurrection, the miracle of Easter, changed everything. John’s Gospel asks who will be the one to live Jesus’ victory over sin and death. Who would be the one? If the doors to their homes were closed, were their hearts and minds open to the resurrected Jesus? What kept the doors closed? What caused the apostles to hide? I suggest it was doubt enclosed in fear that kept the doors closed. The horror of the crucifixion still burned in the minds of the disciples. As rumors of the resurrection spread through their hiding places, it was hope in the resurrection that fueled their faith in Jesus Christ. Virtue begins with courage. Therefore, with Jesus’s appearance, each one of the apostles was empowered with the courage and peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding. Each one rejoiced when Jesus said, “Peace be with you”. Jesus removes the fear and doubt of each one of the disciples. Thomas’ absence and subsequent bold profession of faith is evidence of the power of God to build faith out of doubt in each one of us. Some say that Thomas’ mind was closed to the message of the resurrection given to him by the disciples. Perhaps it was his grave doubt that allowed him to be the one to give a most profound profession of faith, “My Lord and my God”. These words illustrate that he believed in Jesus as the Risen Christ. Our Faith, therefore, is a belief held in the presence of doubt, rather than a belief that removes all doubt. It is faith in Jesus the Christ that opens the door to eternal life and allows us to be the one who brings Christ into the lives of others. There must always be one. Our challenge is to “Be That One” who brings Jesus Christ into the lives of others.

We are aware throughout scripture that the minds and hearts of the leaders of Judaism remained closed and opposed to this new Christ- centered religion. They probably used the phrase, “there’s always one, trying to change things.” However, the average person and those outside of the privileged class accepted and admired the Apostles of Jesus. The apostles each “one” preached the Word of God and performed signs and wonders. Collectively, they formed God’s Community, and His Church. Scripture tells us that these early Christians met in homes in small groups for the “breaking of Bread,” which is the official term for celebrating the Eucharist. They also met in the Temple areas, under Solomon’s Portico, which was a very public area near the court of the Gentiles in the Temple. Many believers were brought into the community. This aspect is dramatized in the Acts of the Apostles, by the words “great numbers of men and women, were added to them.” However, note that each “one” had to decide for themselves to be followers of Jesus Christ. By our baptism we too, are called to be the one who bring Jesus into the lives of others. There is always ‘one.’ Can you, Be the “One”.