

And the Lord will be known by our love. St. Vincent Pallotti, a not so well-known saint said, "Remember that the Christian life is one of action, not of speech or daydreams. Let there be few words and many deeds, and let them be done well".

Serve Them!

In the story of the Good Samaritan, the wounded man didn't need someone to preach to him about God, or someone to debate with him about the right doctrine, or someone to teach him what's morally right or wrong.

Instead, he needed someone to clean his wounds (yuk!), carry him to an inn (woe!), and pay for his food and accommodations (Oh no!). He didn't need a priest or a preacher. He needed a kind person. He needed a servant. And that's what the wounded world is looking for.

The Bible says, *You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.* (Colossians 3:12)

Are we known for our compassion? Kindness? Humility? Gentleness? Patience?

I believe that'll be how the wounded world will come to know the real Jesus.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

1. Am I known for my kindness? Do I accept people outside the church or community as they are? Am I available to them? Do I show compassion to them?
2. Make a list of the things I need to do so I can be more kind and compassionate?

LOJC FEAST IN THE WEST REMINDERS:

**JULY 23..... LOJC-WIDE FAMILY DAY. SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST.
ARCHBISHOP ROMERO SECONDARY SCHOOL.
99 HUMBER BLVD, YORK, M6N 2H4**

AUG 12,13,14.....LIVE-IN YOUTH JESUS ENCOUNTER, LA CONSOLATA

AUG 6 & 20..... FEASTS, 1:30 PM, MILTON SENIOR CENTER AUDITORIUM

SEPT 10..... FEASTS, 1:30 PM, HOLY ROSARY ELEM SCHOOL GYM

**SEPT 17..... 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION,
MISSISSAUGA VALLEY Community Centre, 5:00 PM**

Prophecies: June 9, 2011

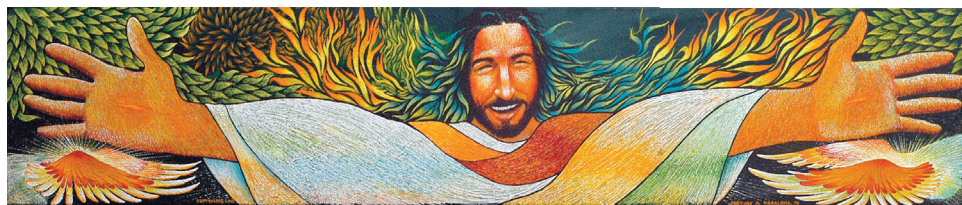
My brothers and sisters, every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out.

Come to me my children, come to me and I will give you rest, come to me all those who are burdened, those who are having difficulties, come to me and I will provide springs of living water to you, my children. I love you, you are so precious to me, I will never leave you.

The Feast Bulletin

www.lojcanada.com

July 16, 2011



Series: J1NI (Jesus in Everyone)

Talk 2: Serve Them

God's Kingdom Will Be Known By Our Kindness

Do you believe that God is kind? Yes, He is but let me say something radical. I believe that we will never fully know God's Love unless another human being gives us God's Love.

This is a story that is too familiar to most of us. But let's read it again with fresh ears. And expect God to speak to us in a new and powerful way.

Luke 10:30-35

Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by, on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came along, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by, on the other side. But a Samaritan who was travelling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he told the innkeeper, 'and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.'"

This is a nice, sweet story, isn't it? But this is a very controversial parable. In the story, God gave three men a major exam. The exam wasn't a written or oral, it was actual. The exam came in the form of a half-dead man, lying in the pool of his blood, in the middle of the dusty road.

Here's the controversy: The two guys who should have been exempted because of their sterling credentials, who everyone expected to be board toppers, failed big time. But the third guy, the class nincompoop, someone no one expected to pass, didn't only pass; He passed with flying colours. He got summa cum laude. Why? Because he was kind! In God's book, at the end of the day, kind people always win!

Three Ways To Show Kindness

One Big Message: If we want to bring someone closer to God, we need to be kind to them. **Because the kingdom will be known by our kindness.**

Here are three ways of showing kindness:

1. Be Accepting
2. Be Available
3. Be Affectionate

1. Be Accepting

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, why did the Priest and Levite not help? Because they weren't accepting! A lot of people don't know this little fact. The Priest and the Levite didn't help because they were afraid of being ritually unclean.

But the Samaritan didn't think in this way. Because according to this world of clean and unclean, a Samaritan was already unclean. (Samaritans were half-breed Jews who were looked down upon.) According to them, he was, by birth, already ceremonially defiled.

In other words, it was the "unclean" man who helped another unclean man.

Here's the point: ***The best representatives of God are the kindest and most humble people; not the most intelligent, the most eloquent or the most gifted.*** Those who know they're not perfect. Those who deeply respect people; no matter what they have done in the past. Those who don't have an air of spiritual superiority and religious arrogance. Those who accept people as they are!

But Alas, Christians Today Are Seen As Arrogant People!

A huge survey was done among young people ages 16 to 29 in America. They were asked what they thought of Christianity.

The results? 87% of them said that Christianity was judgmental. 85% said Christianity was hypocritical. And one out of four non-Christians said that modern day Christians were no longer like Jesus. Mahatma Gandhi said the same thing many years ago. He said, "I like your Christ but I dislike your Christians. They are so unlike your Christ."

Why? Rick Warren explained it this way: "Christians are more known for what we are against than what we are for." In other words, we love to tell people what's wrong with them. We do this to our kids, to our spouses. And we do this to our friends who either seldom go to church or not at all.

Parenting experts advise parents that **correcting their kids without building a strong relationship with them will never work.** It's useless. If this is true of parenting, how much more with our friends who seldom step into a church service or not at all?

If we want to bring people closer to God, we need to meet them at their level, speak their language, meet their concerns, and address their needs.

Is Our God Cruel?

When tragedies strike our planet, two types of religious people surface.

The first type is the religious person who rushes in and serves. The second type is the religious person who rushes in and shames. The first one gives, helps, and cares. The second one condemns, criticizes, and judges.

Religious people who worship a cruel god become cruel too.

We always become like the god that we worship.

Why The Feast Accepts Everyone

In the Feast, we accept and welcome the sinners, the lost souls longing for God, the confused who are searching for life's meaning and purpose; the migrant workers longing for family and for a home. Anyone! Why? We recognize that we are all sinners! But we have experienced the kindness of God, in one way or another.

When we're aware of our weaknesses, we'll be more accepting. Unless we do, we won't be able to accept the limp of others. We'll always be judging, condemning, looking down, being irritated by the weaknesses of others.

2. Be Available

The Samaritan had lots of things to do. That's why he asked the innkeeper to take care of the wounded man. But despite this, he went out of his way. He welcomed this interruption. Why? To show kindness.

How? We need to get out of our religious environment. We should start building relationships with people who aren't religious.

Let's Build Relationships Outside Our Church

St. Augustine said Christians are like fertilizer. Why? If we spread it out in a vast track of land, it's wonderful. It will nourish the crops. But if we keep it in a barn, all bunched up together, it will smell really bad, or worse, explode. Because fertilizer is very combustible.

That's what happens to Christian groups who don't welcome non-members. They become a smelly group. And they start fighting each other, because they are not focused on the "outsiders" but they focus on one another analyzing each other's little mistakes and magnifying them.

3. Be Affectionate

Jesus said, ***But a Samaritan who was travelling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity.***

Do we have compassion for those suffering around us? If we do, that is a great and special gift from God.

There are people whose hearts are cold to the needs of others. Today, as we walk in the world, there are many wounded people around us. Let's open our eyes and see their wounds and feel their pain.

"But I don't want to", you might protest. "I have enough problems of my own. I don't want to take the problems of others!"

But do you remember what Jesus said about the Samaritan? ***He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them.***

Do you think this Samaritan was bringing a First Aid kit in his knapsack? Of course not! Here's what happened. He tore his own clothes to bandage the man.

Kindness is costly! Kindness is painful. When we're kind to others, we'll lose something. We'll lose time, money, our agenda, our convenience and comfort. Yes, we'll be tearing off our nice clothes to bandage someone's wounds.

Are we ready to be kind? And this is our great reward: The Kingdom will be known by our kindness. God will be known by our goodness.