

6th Sunday of Easter  
May 9, 2010  
“Jesus: Our Pathway to Personal Peace”

Here’s a little Mother’s Day humor, for all the Moms in Church today. It pokes a little fun at the Dad, but indulge me, guys, we can take it.

Little Johnny was in a mischievous mood one day, much to the consternation of his mother. He just kept fighting and scrapping with his older brother, like crazy. After many exasperating pleas from his mother to settle down and play nicely, Johnny finally said to his mom: “I’ll be good if you’ll give me a dollar.” His dear mother quickly responded: “Shame on you, Johnny, for wanting to be paid to be good. Look at your father over there. He’s good for nothing!”

That’s really not a bad lead-in to our Gospel lesson today.

Jesus gives us His peace.

So, how does His peace differ from worldly peace?

Well, the world defines peace as the absence of conflict.

But the peace that Jesus gives us is Himself: 1) His saving and rescuing us, 2) His help in carrying life’s burdens, 3) His teachings about practicing virtues.

You see, His peace is not the absence of anything.

It’s a pathway to follow in life that is both reassuring and fulfilling.

Reassuring in that Jesus says elsewhere in the Gospels: “Don’t be afraid; see I go before you; come, follow me.”

Fulfilling in that we relate to the others in our lives unselfishly.

We put their interests and concerns before our own.

Jesus helped the lame to walk, the oppressed to rejoice, the poor to get some Good News, and the dead raised to new life.

Now, there are lots of times that come up in our lives when we come across someone struggling to get by, and those are the chances we have to reach out and help that person walk a little better in life.

There are times when we come across persons who are so bogged down with life's worries and troubles that they truly do feel oppressed, and that's our chance to lighten their loads with a kind word, and maybe even a prayer.

There are plenty of times when poor people come into our lives, and when we dig deep into our pockets, they hear the Good News that help is on the way.

Now, we may not be able to raise the dead to life, as Jesus raised Lazarus.

But surely, there are times when we find someone who is feeling so down and out about life that he or she just seems to have hit bottom.

How about that poor man left for dead on the sidewalk in New York City, several weeks ago, and everybody just kept walking by. How sad to see.

And those are the times we have the chance to love them back to life.

And how fulfilling all these things are!

If we are to keep Jesus' Word, then our lives must be characterized by a speaking and doing that brings about the same transformations that Jesus did.

And that's not an absence of anything.

It becomes a presence of our own pathway to personal peace.

Thank you, and God bless you!