

Daily Homily

Monday, Fifth Week of Lent

30 March 2020

Readings of the day: ([usccb daily readings](#))

Normally George O'Donnell is the lector for daily Mass on Mondays. I miss hearing his voice on this rather strange, yet upright reading.

On this Lenten day God's Word asks of our Lenten lives and our Lenten hearts: Do you know the Father?

Susanna is a woman whose praises are sung in Scripture. She is strong in faith and virtue. She and her husband have the respect of the community. Her family shares a strong bond and is tied together in love. In every role she has, she is a powerhouse. She is an example to both women and men alike of what it means to live fully by trusting God completely. Even in the midst of accusations and the fear of being sentenced to death, everyone is around her – her parents, her children, and every relative. There is nothing fake or fickle about her. This is one reason why everyone stands in her light even when it seems dark forces descend.

When false accusations fly because of men who are selfish, evil, conniving, caught up in their own power and passions, it all comes to nothing except their own stumbling into the dark valley and their own succumbing to death itself. They are reduced to nothing. Why? Because Susanna knows the "Eternal God." She prays to him. She doesn't beg. She doesn't tell God what to do. She doesn't go on and on with many words. Her prayer is simple. She simply states where she is... she's in trouble. She simply states who God is... the one who sees what is hidden and is aware of all things before they come to be. She knows God. And God knows Susanna.

Jesus is, once again, clashing with some of the Pharisees. He is trying to lift up light and truth in their conversation. However, the culture of their day and the powers that be are strong and oppressive. They ask him, as if he's five years old, "Where is your father?" (Note the small caps, "f.") Jesus tells them that they do not know the Father. (Note the capital "F.") If they did, they would know both Jesus, and where his Father is.

Do you know the Father?

We probably know the culture in which we live. A culture that says acts like abortion can be justified even when it's the greatest lie of our times. A culture that lifts up Hollywood actors to be the role models of our day ... then we wait for a new set to come along in a few years. A culture that says woman and men should be in competition with each other on every level instead of complimenting each other in who they are and what they are created to be. We know a culture that says keep consuming way above what we actually need and then we wonder why our world is sick these days. We know a culture that says "work for your own happiness" and when you're restless, not happy, unsatisfied it probably means you need a quick, easy fix to prevent those feelings, whatever those quick and easy fixes may be. We know a culture that loves to say, "It's all good." Well, actually, it's not. Sin isn't good... but the Father? God is all good.

We know the culture, but do we know the Father?

In the midst of the hot button issues of our times, do we know where the Father stands – our Catholic faith helps us in discerning that? In the midst of the unsettling moments of our lives and our relationships and our purpose and our meaning, do we know where the Father is? In the midst of our fears and worries and troubles, do we know where the Father is? In the midst of what I want for my life, what I want to do, what I have planned and plotted for me, do we know where the Father is? Again, with all these questions, our Catholic faith can help us in discerning where God is. So, do you know?

On this Lenten day... call to Him, like Susanna did. The Eternal God who sees into what is hidden and has an awareness like none other, will see what is hiding in your heart and will know a deep awareness of your need and will come to your side. Ask for Him, like a Pharisee. But unlike some of the Pharisees, see and recognize Him standing right there, in front of you.