

May 14, 2017 – 5th Sunday of Easter – Cycle A

Good Morning! How are you? I'm tired. But I'm blessed. I got home late last night. I was driving when I got to, oh, right after Meadville that rest area I was kept almost killing myself, you know, falling asleep when you're driving which is not a good thing to do. So I pulled over and I thought I'd rest my eyes for a couple minutes in the rest area and it's start raining two hours later and I was like, oh, it's time to get home. So it's 2:30 in the morning when I got home. So thanks be to goodness for rain or I'd still be there this morning.

Anyway, Happy Mother's Day to all you mothers. And please let's congratulates our mother's. And again, often, people who are not physical mothers they kind of feel put out but today like everybody else gets it, I don't get it. If you give life to somebody else spiritually you are a spiritual mother. When you pray for people spiritually you are a spiritual mother. So you don't just sit there and say, okay, I don't have any kids. You can have thousands of children, spiritual children through your prayers, so you're giving them life. So never despair that this day isn't for you. It's like saying Father's Day isn't for me. Shut up! Father's Day is for me too. So again, always know that reality.

When we come before Jesus, this day, what Jesus tells us is very beautiful He says, the first line, which I use a lot on my night tweets is, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God. Have faith in me." Huh? And so what He does is He's telling us how to deal with our troubled hearts. Now, our troubled hearts as we talked about a little bit last week. Our troubled hearts comes from a lot of things. From the struggles of daily life, from the fears that we have in our life, from the fear of the future, why our hearts are constantly troubled. And He tells us what conquers trouble, fear in our life. And what conquers it? Faith! And again, I think that becomes a platitude to us. That we really don't get it. So how do we deal with that? Because again, most of us here, I don't know, there's very few people that I ever met that aren't troubled by something. Could be your own sinfulness, whatever it is let's take for granted all of us our troubled. Is that okay to take for granted?

Okay. So that' where we're at. So Jesus tells us how to combat that. And He talks about what will combat that, will destroy that, is faith. So how do we

get the faith to deal with that? Well, I'll tell you. I'll us an example. That this last week as I was down in Newark all week doing a parish mission. And I flew from Newark and I was going out to Houston, a Texan city which is by Galveston. You know on the way getting into Newark on Monday morning I guess it was.

You know again, most of you know I don't like to fly. Even though I have flown so many thousands of times throughout the years. But I still get nervous. It's a heart troubling thing. And so I'm sitting there and we get on, I wish the pilot sometimes would keep their mouth shut. That's all I'm saying. But anyway, because as we're getting there he says, you know, Newark's having a lot of air turbulence and their having a lot of wind. It's going to be bad on the way down. Now what does cause me? A troubled heart. And so I'm sitting there thinking, you know, okay, I preach on this stuff all the time. How am I going to sit there and deal with my troubled heart, oh, Father? Because you do realize people when they do that stuff they always look at priest even if they are an atheist. There are always looking at the priest. Well, how the priest going to handle this? Right? And so, the way it worked for me so much I should've of done it for years, but I didn't, I don't know why I didn't, I do other things, is I just start saying, Jesus, I trust in you. And as soon I start saying Jesus, I trust in you, the fear, the troubled-ness, all the stuff dissipated. Because the faith which is trust, when you can focus on Jesus during that time, because again, what does He tells us later in the gospel? I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life.

So what happens is when we're troubled, and again, what we do normally, I guess I might be the only one. But we focus on these troubles. We focus on these fears. We focus on all this stuff that I'm struggling with. The only thing that can really do that is faith and that faith and action which cries out is Jesus, as the apostle's did, Jesus, I trust in thee. Or later on when Peter was falling in the water and he starts falling in and he goes in and what's he cry out? Jesus save me. The key to conquering our fear is to look not at the fear but at Jesus. And make an act of trust to Jesus. So you keep saying it until that act of faith disperses the fear in your life. So sometimes you might have to say that for a couple of hours. But it'll work. I promise. It just worked for me and boy did that work in other things and I thought I'm nuts. Why don't I do these things? And it just happen to be just where it's at. So Jesus looks at us today and He says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith

in God. Have faith in me.” And the way we do that is we all cry out, Jesus, I trust in thee. And you keep saying it until the fear is gone and the trouble is gone. You got it? Get it? Gonna do it? May each of you know His love today and forever. Amen.