

August 19, 2018 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Fr. Larry Richards

Good Morning! And how are you?

It's got to be the hardest time to have a parish picnic after this week by far. It's been a hard week for everybody as you all know. And I want the second reading of course gives us some guidance about what to do. And we start a little late in that reading, but, I want to go back to the first part of it because it puts it into context when we hear this is from Ephesian's Chapter 5. And we're going to start Verse 8. And it says, "there was a time when you were in darkness. There was a time when you were in darkness. But now you are in now you are light in the Lord. Well then live as children of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth. Be correcting your judgement of what pleases the Lord. Take no part in vain deeds done in darkness rather condemn them. It's shameful to even to mention the things these people do in secret. But when such deeds are condemned they are seen in the light of day and all that then appears is light. And that is why we read, Awake O sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light. And then we hear the reading begins today. Keep watch over your conduct. Do not act like fools but like thoughtful men. Make the most of the present opportunity for these are evil days."

These are evil days that we're in the midst of. And so what Paul was telling us they were evil days back then too and Paul's teaching the Ephesians what do you do in the midst of evil days. You know when I put my video a couple weeks ago on Coming Against the Darkness some people have been talking and you know, you get over 135 comments on the one thing and they say, Father don't tell us to be quiet. I haven't said to be quiet to anybody in any way, shape, or form. What I'm saying is we just can't curse the darkness. We need to bring the light into the darkness. To come against the darkness. To come against the evil and the way we do that is he says watch over your own conduct. What's he saying? Be light. Stand against the darkness. Too many people have just been cursing the darkness. And the cursing of the darkness it isn't going to change anything. It just isn't. We need to bring the light of truth Jesus Christ into this darkest of times.

You know again myself of victim of things. It's been very hard. I don't want to be a victim here. It's been hard. You know I sat there and thought I'm not going to wear my clerics. There's no way I'm wearing my clerics to Waldameer today. It ain't gonna happen. I had a friend who was walking through Walmart not here another diocese not even in Pennsylvania and somebody came up to him and says priest pedophile and spit at him. And this guy's a holy young man; priest. But again we all take the thing for what the evil people have done. But now we've taken that evil and we brought it to the light. And now that the light is there they can no longer hide in the darkness. And it's in the whole church. It's coming and we're bringing the light to this. It's the only way we can do. But again though once he says okay now be the light we need to also then sit there and what does he say? How does this reading end today? Can you imagine? This is a hard for any of us to listen to but this is what Paul tells us. Give thanks to God the Father always

for everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. So in the midst of everything and he still calls us to praise God for what is good. And there is still great goodness in the church. The truth. What's happening at this very mass today that God of the Universe cannot contain will humble himself before us and he will feed us with his own precious body and blood. And we need to do that. We need to be focus on Jesus the light as we bring in the light. You know we can never go against and say that what's happen is anyway right or wrong. What the bishop's did was wrong. What the priest's did was wrong. What the lay people did who had also did things was wrong.

You know, I lived, there was forty one priests on that list. I lived with ten of them. Ten throughout the years. Two of them I reported. One I explicitly reported. Nothing got done. When I was only 17 years old I was molested by the rector of the seminary. At 17 when I entered into the seminary. But I have decided in my own life that I am not going to sit there and let what happened then conduct and fill my whole life. There's more goodness in the church then evil. And I have tried in my thirty years of priesthood to be that light. And that's what we are all called to do. So we have a decision. We can decide to be like everybody else that's why with this church where I'm so blessed that you're this community. Because you know that the light is stronger than the darkness. You know that God is good. And that God will win. And then we will get through this. We'll get through this together. We'll get through this by bringing light to speak against the darkness. But bring that light of Christ in the midst of this.

So let's choose to never okay darkness. To come against darkness. If any kind of darkness has happen to you anybody you got to speak up. You got bring it forth. You got to bring it the light. But then you got to let Jesus heal it. Can Jesus everything that's happened? He's healed me and He can heal many people. And we can move on. We can't get stuck. We got to move on. Now some people again someone says to me that after they called me some names on line they also sat there and says don't use your faith to okay the things that have happened in the church. People that's all I got is faith in the midst of all this. This is the only thing that can help us is our faith in Jesus Christ. So when someone tells you to dismiss your faith you cling to your faith. Because Jesus Christ our King, the God of the Universe who feeds us with his bread of life today. We already know how this ends. He wins and we win in Him.

You got it? Get it? May each of you know His love today and forever. Amen.