

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

## Dear Parents and Parishioners,

The week just concluding was a short one because of the Labor Day Weekend. Human labor is such an important part of our life. Consider the distress of those who are unemployed. Consider the pride of women who labor in childbirth and labor in loving care for family. Consider the satisfaction of those who work out of the home, labor, and support their family.

Tuesday was the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. No one knows when she was born. It is presumed that her parents either lived in Nazareth or Jerusalem. The two stained glass windows over our side doors represent Mary's parents, Ann and Joachim.

In the New Testament there are only four passages that speak directly of Mary, three in St. Luke, and one in St. John at the Wedding Feast in Cana. Mary speaks very little.

In the Bible Joseph, spouse of Mary, says not a word. He quietly receives the Word of God and then he acts.

Note that both Mary and Joseph were quiet people, never ostentatious, never seeking limelight. Let me suggest you consider the resemblances in children to the parents who raise them. So often the children follow in the dispositions of their mother and father. Jesus follows this pattern. He resembles both Mary and Joseph.

Jesus never sought self-aggrandizement. He did not send his Apostles out to gather a crowd so he could speak with them. Jesus never brought in a sick person to highlight the person but rather accepted the situations that arose spontaneously and then he acted. When Jesus found someone in his travels who was sick, he aided the person. Other people brought persons to Jesus. Jesus was powerfully succinct.

If someone has a negative history, he did not drive them deeper down but rather raised them up. Jesus was a walking field hospital, **Forgiving, feeding, and curing.**

When Jesus extended forgiveness from his Father, he expected the person to follow suit with others. The only enmity that Jesus seemed to hold was that toward Herod Antipas. Herod had beheaded his cousin John the Baptist. Herod brought Jesus before him and wanted a show. Jesus was not a show. Jesus was silent. I wonder where Herod Antipas is now?

This has been a very good week at our school. The whole school was assembled on Friday for our first Mass in the Grotto. Our church now has new kneelers. Everything in our parish seems to be going positively and upward. We are blessed with the presence of Mary in the Grotto, with Joseph as our Patron. May each of us in our own families try to emulate the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They were quiet people, humble people, people of God.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.  
September 13, 2020