

21 June 2020 - Homily
By: Fr. Paul Magyar

We have survived the flood ! Masses have resumed and this Father's Day weekend is the first weekend people are back in the church. God revealed to humanity that the relationship He wants with us is a father to child relationship. God identifies himself as the Father. Love for one's father, mother, spouse and children is all love, however at the same time it is distinct, particular to each relationship.

In the gospel of Matthew 10:26-33 Jesus warns the disciples about future persecution and how to handle it. Jesus warns about fear and how it can be debilitating. He teaches his disciples that God can annihilate both body and soul, however God chooses not to do that. Fear of the Lord is the first step to wisdom.

Jesus explains to his disciples how to overcome their fear. Jesus uses the example of the two sparrows bought for a temple sacrifice. That is the cheapest sacrifice that one can buy and yet God still cares for even that slightest sacrifice. Hence, using an old rabbinical teaching, Jesus tells his disciples that they are worth much more in the eyes of God than sparrows.

In Jer 20:10-13, the prophet Jeremiah faces an interior crisis after his altercation with the priest Pashur. Pashur imprisoned Jeremiah because Jeremiah predicted death for Pashur's family in Babylonian captivity. Jeremiah realized that being poor is to be pious and a pious man is the client of Yahweh. Jeremiah overcomes his fear while in prison with this realization from God's inspiration.

God's fatherly love is demonstrated by his great sense of value for all His creation. God always emphasizes the value, dignity and beauty of human life. As the Father archetype, God always reminds not to be afraid. Fear freezes us like Medusa, turns us into stone and prevents us from loving. God grants us constant encouragement, like a father encourages his child, to be courageous, "Be calm/still and know that I am God."

Praying for all of you
Fr. Paul Magyar