

Ordinary 19C - 2025

"I have sent you many messengers."

According to an old fable, a man made an unusual agreement with Death. He told the Grim Reaper that he would willingly accompany him when it came time to die, but only on one condition - that Death would send a messenger well in advance to warn him. Weeks turned into months, and months into years. Then one bitter winter evening, as the man sat thinking about all his possessions, Death suddenly entered the room and tapped him on the shoulder. Startled, the man cried out, *"You're here so soon and without warning! I thought we had an agreement."* Death replied, *"I've more than kept my part. I've sent you many messengers. Look in the mirror and you'll see some of them."*— As the man complied, Death whispered, *"Notice your hair! Once it was full and golden, now it is thin and white. Look at the way you tilt your head to listen to me because you can't hear very well. Observe how close to the mirror you must stand to see yourself clearly. Yes, I've sent many messengers through the years. I'm sorry you're not ready, but the time has come for you to leave."* (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

Look Busy, Be Busy:

Today's Gospel reading reminds me of the old story of the apparition on the corner of Main and Market in a busy city. It was Saturday morning when Fr. Pascucci heard a knock on the rectory door and an extremely excited lady said, *"The Lord has appeared on the corner of Main and Market."* Father was in the process of trying to decide if she was suffering from stress or whatever, when a second person came running, *"Father, Father, the Lord has appeared on the corner of Main and Market."* "When?" Fr. Pascucci asked. *"He's there right now,"* they both answered. So, Fr. Pascucci went down the block where a large crowd had formed, and sure enough, he saw Jesus. After a while the Lord left. Fr. Pascucci didn't know what to do, so he called a Monsignor friend of his. His friend told him to call the Bishop. So Father Pascucci called the Bishop and told him the news, *"The Lord has appeared on the corner of Main and Market. What should I do if He comes back?"* The Bishop thought for a while and then told Fr. Pascucci he'd get back to him. The Bishop then called Rome, and, being an important Bishop, he got the Pope. *"Holy Father,"* he said, *"One of my priests, Fr. Pascucci, reports that the Lord has appeared on the corner of Main and Market in his parish. He wants to know what he should do in case the Lord comes back."* After a few moments the Pope replied, *"Tell Fr. Pascucci to look busy."*— Good advice for us all! The Lord is coming back. How should we prepare?

Not just by looking busy, but by being busy, doing good for others by humble service. (Fr. Pellegrino). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

Whispering God:

There is a story told about a young man and an old preacher. The young man had lost his job and didn't know which way to turn. So, he went to see the old preacher. Pacing about the preacher's study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally, he clenched his fist and shouted, **"I've begged God to say something to help me. Tell me, Preacher, why doesn't God answer?"** The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply - something so hushed, it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. **"What did you say?"** he asked. The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So, the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher's chair. **"Sorry,"** he said. **"I still didn't hear you."** With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more. **"God sometimes whispers,"** he said, **"so that we will move closer to hear Him."** This time the young man heard, and he understood. — We all want God's voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God's is the still, small voice... the gentle whisper. Perhaps there's a reason. Nothing draws human focus quite like a whisper. God's whisper means I must stop my ranting and move close to Him, until my head is bent together with His. Then, as I listen, I will find my answer. Better still, I find myself closer to God. Today is the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Scripture Readings of today speak of God's kindness and His saving presence amidst trials and afflictions. (Fr. Albrt Lakara). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>).

"I am awake."

It is said that soon after his enlightenment (which followed days of fasting and meditation under a Bodhi tree), the Sidhartha Guathama Buddha passed a man on the road who was struck by the extraordinary radiance and peacefulness of Buddha's presence. The man stopped and asked, *"My friend, what are you? Are you a celestial being or a God?"*

"No," said the Buddha.

"Well, then, are you some sort of magician or wizard?"

Again the Buddha answered, *"No."*

"Are you a man?"

"No."

"Well my friend, what are you then?"

"I am awake." (Joseph Goldstein and Jack Kornfield, *Seeking the Heart of Wisdom*).