

Homily John 14:23-29 May 22. 2022

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There are a number of things in life that have a warning label. It may be a food, alcohol or tobacco product. It could be on something with moving parts to alert us to use caution and safety to prevent an injury.

I have been thinking that maybe there should be a warning label put on a homily and the subject matter should take on the reality of the hard subjects that we as society tend to steer away from due to the discomfort it causes us.

The last several weeks we have been hearing readings from the book of Revelations. When we think of Revelations, we usually think of the end of times, and it can often cause us anxiety. The reality is that the world as we know it will end. Another fact is that our lives here on earth will also end.

Many of us steer away from the subject of death for a number of reasons. One could be that we are truly unsure of what happens at the end from our worldly view. Another most likely is that we don't want to acknowledge our faults and sins and are not ready to answer for them. Another may be that we think everyone gets a life participation trophy and will automatically go to heaven.

Reality is that God created a heaven and a hell. Scripture tells us that some will not make it to heaven.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shares with His disciples that he is going to leave them and go be with His Father. The Good News is that he is leaving us with one of the greatest tools we can have in our toolbox of life, that is the gift of the Holy Spirit. He said the Holy Spirit will be our teacher.

Jesus said, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to make our home with them..."

This seems to be saying that Jesus and the Holy Spirit will take up residence in them... in the heart of the one who takes Jesus seriously enough to follow his teachings. Jesus says that if we love Him, we will do what he tells us. He says that is what a relationship with Him is about, knowing Him and keeping His word.

The Holy Spirit is our helper and our Advocate. You might ask what is an advocate? In court it is the attorney who represents us and speaks on our behalf. In the medical field it is the one who speaks or acts on our behalf as they know the medical language and terms.

For me, I take chemo medicine to keep my leukemia in remission. I have a patient advocate that works with the pharmaceutical company to get it at a cost that I can afford. Knowing the benefit of an advocate in the secular world, imagine the power of the Holy Spirit has as an advocate to help us live as Jesus teaches, which will ultimately help us get to heaven.

Jesus also said in the Gospel, “do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” I haven’t counted for sure, but it is my understanding the Bible says 365 times... “do not be afraid.” That’s once for every day of the year.

As we keep God’s Word, we have a wonderful promise, God will come to us. When we follow the Word of God rather than our own notions, Christ will come into our hearts, homes and families. **Do not be persuaded by ideologies of the world, but live by the teachings of Jesus in the Scripture.**

It has often been said, we can teach the Gospel, sometimes we may need to use words.

Is your life style an of example of Jesus’ teachings, without using words?

If people watch you, will they know you have Christ in your heart?

Whether it’s the Book of Revelations or your personal life, are you prepared for the end when it comes?

Today we have our graduates celebrating Mass with all of us. What an accomplishment and milestone for you in life. You will now enter into a new era, one where you will be going out **“into the world”** as it is often called.

From a spiritual stand point, it’s often said this is the time of life that so many young people put their faith life on hold. It’s also a time when some may fall away from their faith completely due to the influences of those they associate with, or by the teachings of science over our faith in God.

The reality is that rather than you being changed, each of you can change others and bring them to The Lord, by living your life as an example of Christ through your actions. Again, most times you may not even need to use words. I ask each of you graduates, that every morning you invite the Holy Spirit along with you for the day. Where can you get so much help for free?

Parents, I invite each of you every morning to ask the Holy Spirit to be with your child. How much more comfort can your heart have, knowing that he or she is in the hands of the Holy Spirit?

Congratulations to you the students and to your parents.