

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Lenten Mission 2017
Discernment in Everyday Life
Rev. Victor Ingalls, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Mobile
Talk 3: Hearing God Speak through Circumstances

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

It has been said, that most of the time, God speaks to us through our “Circumstances”—**WHY?**

*Romans 8:28—We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

*Fr. Emmerich Voygt—“There is nothing in your past, that is not part of God’s loving plan for you future”

*Incorporates 12 steps into Catholic spirituality

*<http://www.12-step-review.org>

***DIVINE PROVIDENCE**

**Abandonment to Divine Providence* by Jeane-Pierre DeCausade, SJ

*One of most popular spiritual writers of the 18th Century

*Title of Chapter 1: Sanctity consists in the order established by God and in submission to all of his operations

*Chapter 1, Section II: The duties of each moment are the shadow beneath which hides the divine operation

***EYES OF FAITH**—If could see everything with the eyes of faith, as though they were designed and intended to be seen by God—everything would speak to us of God—everything would reveal some aspect of Who God is, What He is Like, and What Amazing Life he desires to share with us

*Psalm 19:2— *The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands.*

*Matthew 6:30— *If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?*

*Creation: God creates all things. All things speak of God. Just as the art of an artist tells us something of the artist. And the buildings of an architect tell us something of the architect

*My older sister Courtney—For a couple years, could only pray, “Teach me to see as you see”

Two Main Ways in which in which God speaks to us through our Circumstances (Parallels the way God’s speaks through his people)

I. God uses our Circumstances to Deliver a Message of Guidance to Us

A. *St. Mother Theresa & Jacqueline de Decker Story*—meeting in December of 1948—> Sick & Suffering CoWorkers of the Missionaries of Charity

B. God’s Calling Triangle—Your Priorities will tell you what to do: Holiness>Vocation>Job

*Ex. Man offered a new job up North. His wife’s health cannot handle the cold. Not an option.

*Married Man. Feels called to be a priest. Not an option.

C. Father Victor Example: Riding in the Car with Mom on a College Visit in South Carolina—“C ME”

II. God uses our Circumstances to Reveal Himself and direct our effort to Love Him, Love our Neighbor and Collaborate with him in Building up His Kingdom

*Story of How St. Damien of Molokai entered into my life

Part 1: Serving Mass with the Pope

*Serving for the Pope—last one to enter his vesting chapel—desperately wanting him to focus on me and have some memorable interaction—Was totally focused on the crucifix in the chapel, saying his prayers

Part 2: Him finding a way into my Ordination Celebration

*Connection between Painting and Joan and St. Damien

Part 3: What St. Damien has been teaching me

*Same thing Pope Benedict taught me—> Focus on Jesus —> Particularly him in the Cross —> the ways in which he is crucified in the people and places around me —> and love him there

*St. Damien's Life: What does he teach us?—>To see Christ the plight of those around you and to allow your heart to be moved to enter in and love.

Part 4: What St. Damien Helped me to See

*Two late term stillbirths—>guidance of Holy Spirit —> Infant Memorial Mass —> Healing

Mother Theresa—“The problem with the world today, is that we have forgotten that **we belong to one another.**”

“No daylight to separate us. Only **kinship**. Inching ourselves closer to creating a community of kinship such that God might recognize it. Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased. We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We locate ourselves with the poor and the powerless and the voiceless. At the edges, we join the easily despised and the readily left out. We stand with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away.”

— **Gregory J. Boyle, SJ (AKA G-Dog) *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* —> Responding to “F*** the World” tattooed on the guys forehead**

KINSHIP with CREATION too

Pope Francis—1. “LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord”. In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that **our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.** “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs”.^[1]

Benedict XVI—proposed “eliminating the structural causes of the dysfunctions of the world economy and correcting models of growth which have proved incapable of ensuring respect for the environment” *Address to the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See (8 January 2007): AAS 99 (2007), 73.*

“Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy [passion/gift] meets the world's greatest need.”

Frederick Buechner: Educator, Writer, Lutheran Theologian

Where is that for you? Where is God Calling you?

Consider limiting yourself to 30 minutes of National & International News a Week

Focus on listening to Local News Daily & Praying about where God wants to sync up your Joy with the World's...with the crucified and Thirsty-for-Your-Love Christ's needs

***One Local Example: Full Prisons:**

Easterling, Elmore County— 1267

Elmore Correctional— 1176

Draper Correctional, Elmore— 1232

Kilby Correction, Montgomery— 1421

Limestone Correctional, Mt. Miens (Largest in state)— 2086

Bullock Correctional, Union Springs— 1658

Tutwiler Prison, Wetumpka—1000

*Within a 45 minute drive from here, there are 9,849 prisoners in our midst

****Matthew 25:36— “For I...was in prison and you visited me”***

Closing Song: Eye Has Not Seen

Closing Prayer: Peace Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love....