



Wednesday of Holy Week **March 28, 2018**

Wednesday is a day in our weekly schedule we refer to as “hump day” because it gets us over the hill of the week and headed toward the weekend. There is something life giving, rejuvenating about the weekend. Wednesday is significant in Lent, too. We start on Ash Wednesday and we end today (Wednesday) as we head into the Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. What follows is both life giving and rejuvenating: Easter Sunday.

On that first Ash Wednesday, we were invited to “rend our hearts,” to “return to the Lord with your whole heart.” That call of the first Wednesday of Lent reminds us that much of what we may invest ourselves in is of this world is not God’s priority for us. Thus, we are encouraged to give our whole selves to God during Lent as a way of growing closer to God. And, today’s readings underscore this lesson of Lent, that is, what we think we understand in this world is not how God sees it. This Wednesday is known in some circles as Spy Wednesday because on this day Judas made a bargain with the high priest to betray Jesus for 30 silver pieces. His heart was not close to Jesus. Why? After all, why was Jesus crucified?

I sometimes wonder what happened with Judas before he “went to the chief priests and said ‘what are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?’” After all, as a disciple, it is fair to presume that Judas had just been witness to Jesus public ministry, which was a litany of head-spinning miracles of curing, healing, and raising people from the dead. Why is Jesus crucified?

In worldly observation, he was healing, curing and making well those who needed help. But the traditional list of sins – pride, envy, fear, jealousy among others – these were the worldly reasons Jesus was put to death. Such was the case with Judas. A lack of rending his heart, led to Jesus’ death on a cross. In the immediate days ahead, the Triduum invites us to walk with Jesus during this Passion now that Lent has ended.

But our readings on this final Wednesday of Lent remind us what we heard on Ash Wednesday to start Lent: we should be close to God’s ways because in His love and goodness, God transcends all those things of this world which are otherwise trappings. The resurrection is our ultimate reminder of God’s ways for us. And, Judas reminds all of us that we are prone to betray Jesus. May this “hump day” in Lent be the true momentum shift, we pray, that helps us walk with Jesus these next three days so that we might have returned with hearts full to be with Him this Easter.

*Grant unto me, O Lord, the courage to walk with you in your passion and the commitment to live by your side in your resurrection.
Amen. AMDG*

-Mr. David Laughlin, President