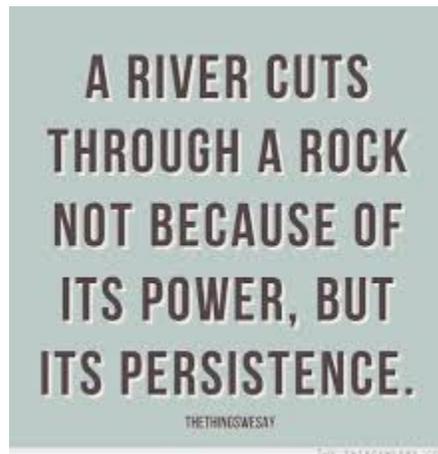


The Academy of Our Lady of Peace

Religion at the Academy

Nov 14, 2021

Perseverance is Key



You get those weeks at Mass where the readings are great but hard to nail down as particular sources of inspiration. That's where the priest is essential and Father Francisco's homily this week was truly inspirational. He was basically saying what we say to the kids at the Academy all the time. God doesn't want us to be first. He doesn't want us to be the best. He wants us to stay the course. He wants us to persevere. He wants us to get up when we make mistakes and try again.

The Bible is full of instances in which the disciples nudge Jesus toward the answers for: 'Will I be first in Heaven?' 'Will I be the one who sits on your right side?' Jesus's answer is always a version of 'the first shall be last and the last shall be first.' He is far more interested in our humanity than he is in our divinity. He is far more interested in how we use that precious gift of free will that was given to us by God the Father.

Throughout humanity, it is perseverance that has culminated in all the greatest inventions, the greatest writings, the greatest art, the greatest thinking, and the greatest displays of humanity between people. It is also humility, and the willingness to accept failure as a lesson. As he is dying on the cross, Jesus is accompanied by two people. Both of them are criminals. One could argue (if there was ever an argument for crucifixion and I don't think there is) that both these men are probably where they deserve to be. Jesus is not. He's there to save us. He's there to

open up those gates of Heaven. One of the men taunts him. 'If you're the Messiah, get off that cross.' It should be easy after all. It's extremely painful. Give up. Why persevere in this ridiculous mission to save the souls of people you haven't even met. The other man says, 'Jesus, I'm a sinner. I need forgiveness.' Do you even want to guess which of the guys made it to Heaven that day?



We NEED Cans!

Families, it is time for the GREAT AOLP CAN EVENT. Send in as many cans as you can. They will ultimately land up in our food pantry, but before they land up there, they will be used in a can creation contest. The more cans the class has, the better structures they can create. Above are only a few examples of what can be created with cans. The deadline for bringing in the cans is November 19th. Go to COSTCO, go to Stop 'n Shop, go to Shoprite, go to any place that has cans and get as many as you can.

This Week in the Parish

Families are invited to make Advent Wreaths in the AOLP gym on **Nov 28, 2021** after ALL the Masses. The Advent Wreaths are \$30 each and there will be people on hand to provide easy directions. The Wreath kits include the wreath base, the candles, and the Advent prayers.

You need to reserve your wreath by using the Sign Up Genius link that is found on the Parish website: www.olpnp.com

Supplies are limited so you need to reserve your wreath by **Nov 15, 2021**.