

Homily

13th Sunday in OT, July 1, 2018

How many of you have seen the insurance commercial where the couple look at the broken pipe and the water pouring from their ceiling? The husband says, "I can fix that," and the wife laughs and says, "No." The commercial ends with the husband, holding a coffee mug, watching the contractor putting the last touches on the repair and saying, "I could have fixed..." and the wife, from the other room, interrupting, saying, "No."

What are you good at? Each of us is good at what we do. I could have fixed that broken pipe in the ceiling, but my wife would say, "No! Let the contractor do it."

For example, I'm a good cook. Before I got married, I often cooked, not just for myself, but for friends. One time I fixed a big salad to go with dinner and had several friends over. I had several salad dressings laid out for the choosing. One of my friends chose no dressing. I asked him if he wanted any. He said, No; the salad doesn't need it; it's good as it is. Yes, I'm a good cook. But don't get me wrong; my wife, Donna, is a great cook. And she really likes to cook. And that's why I don't cook very often.

Each of us have our skills, what we are good at. God made us that way. In His divine wisdom, He created each of us with certain skills and abilities. That is what makes us all special and unique. Yes, some of us are doctors or lawyers, engineers or teachers. To live in this world, we need all of these skill sets and more. I have a guy I go to when I need a broken pipe fixed. I have a guy to fix my car. I have a guy who fixes my computer. I can do all those things myself, but each of my guys is great at what he or she does.

Unfortunately, the fact is that we need all kinds of people to do all these things because we live in a fallen world. We often need things to be fixed.

In the first reading, we hear that God did not create death, that all His creation was wholesome, imperishable. We were created to live forever in the presence of God, for He made us in His own image and nature.

But then we fell. Through God's most precious gift of Free Will, we had a choice and we chose to go against God's Will. Through the most necessary sin of Adam, our divine connection with our Creator was severed.

But we have hope in God's mercy. As we heard in the Gospel acclamation, Jesus destroyed death and brings life to light through the Good News; Jesus Himself! Through Jesus, we have the Divine Healer.

The synagogue official pleads with Jesus to come lay His hands on his daughter, "that she may get well and live." What incredible faith!

And then we have the afflicted woman who only wishes to secretly touch His clothes to be cured. What incredible faith!

If only our faith were as strong! How often do I pray for help when I begin a project? How often do I pray when I do something so simple as wash the dishes?

We have right here with us the God of the universe who knows us better than we know ourselves. There isn't an instant He isn't thinking about you, or you or you or me.

How often do I think about God, about Jesus in my every day moments?

I have a guy I call when my computer needs work. Did I pray to God about it? And I don't mean taking His name in vain.

I have a guy I call when my car needs help. Do I pray to God as well?

We go to those who are good at what they do when we need something. How much more helpful would it be to include the God of the universe who always has us on His mind? Do we make God the center of our lives?

We have so many methods to help us keep God in our lives:

We have Mass, the greatest communal prayer.

We have the Liturgy of the Hours, the second greatest communal prayer.

We have Holy Hour each Thursday at 6 PM right here in Church.

We have devotionals such as the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the saints, even the Sign of the Cross.

We don't often think about it, but the ☩ Sign of the Cross is a powerful prayer all unto itself.

And we have the greatest devotional prayer of all, simply calling out the name of Jesus. As the Catechism says, "The invocation of the holy name of Jesus is the simplest way of praying always.... This prayer is possible 'at all times' because it is not one occupation among others but the only occupation: that of loving God, which animates and transfigures every action in Christ Jesus."

So when we go about our daily lives, let's remember to include the One Who is always thinking about us; the Divine Healer who can fix all things.

Let's remember all the ways He has given us to help us. He gave us His body to heal and nourish us. He gave us His Word to guide and correct us. He gave us each other, all of us members of His Body, each with his own special and unique skills.

We include Him by including each other; in prayer, as we gather for Mass and all the other ways we pray in communion, as we come forth to receive Him, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity as well as when we interact outside of Mass as brothers and sisters.

In service, as we help each other as only we can do because of the many gifts He has given us.

And in reaching out to Him in the Sacraments; especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The precious gift of forgiveness. How often do we come to Christ, through our priest, with a sorrowful and repentant heart? There isn't a sin we can't confess and receive forgiveness. God loves us too much.

In fact, the only sin God can't forgive is the one we don't confess.

I have a spiritual director who hears my confession every month. I sometimes need to go more often. How often do you go? Father Jason/Michael isn't too busy to hear your confession. Just ask.

And it is such a relief to receive absolution, to hear those words, "I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Just ask, like the father of the little girl or the afflicted woman. Have faith, pray and seek the God of the universe who never stops thinking about you.