

TRINITY NEWS

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Pentecost II.

The Impossible Dream: The Fearless Heart

Elijah was a great prophet, and his prophetic ministry, together with that of Elisha, has a powerful impact on the shape of the prophetic ministry chosen by John the Baptizer and Jesus centuries later.

Elijah incurred the wrath of Jezebel, the wife of Ahab of Israel, and she sent him a message that sent shivers up his spine and he fled into the wilderness. He was crushed to the point of wanting to die, rather than face the fear, the shame of his fear, and the loneliness. He lay down under a tree and fell into what was no doubt a troubled sleep. Then he received a new messenger. This messenger was from God, with a personal touch, with the provision of refreshments of cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again and rested. The angelic messenger then came a second time and touched him. This time the message was more specific: "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you". The messenger does not explicitly tell him about the direction of his journey. But Elijah now knows that he must head for the mountain of God, Horeb/Sinai, in the wilderness. He apparently eats the rest of the cake, drinks the water and heads for the holy mountain. Then he travels forty days and forty nights before he gets there and he enters a cave on the mountain. It is in that cave that he will hear the voice of God and hear the assurance of the "still, small voice" at its entrance. That voice gives him peace and hope and instructions about his further ministry. The yoke of fear has been broken.

We began living in caves and caves have a powerful psychological symbolism in the reflections of humanity. The Old Testament, the Tanach, uses the imagery of a cave a number of times. Plato used the symbol of the cave in a famous 'story', and Jesus was buried in a cave hewn out of rock. That last cave was a place where the ultimate fear, that of death, was given a release from fear in the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. There are of course many fears that may seem worse than death, and in fact many are, because they are constant, prolonged fears. Some pain, and the fear of it, may make death appear as a release. Fear of the defamation of character and loss of prestige can drive people to suicide.

The Christian faith has no glib answers about fear, but we do say that God is with us, that we do not walk alone and sweet messengers of hope arrive to sustain us and put our fears in perspective. We also have to be convinced, as Elijah was through his experience in the wilderness, and in the cave, that we will be given the strength to face whatever comes. The scene at the Cross of Calvary reeks of the stench of fear and hopelessness.

It is the “outward and visible sign” of evil fighting against the relentless will of Christ to show fearless love even in his suffering. In a cave that will was vindicated when he rose in glory.

Bishop Arthur Jones

Next week’s readings:

2 Samuel 11:26-12:10,13-15 ; Psalm 32; Galatians 2:11-21; Luke 7:36-50

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for

Beryl Tanner, Diana Croyston, JPeter, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Ron Jacob, Ema Duhaylongsod, Cena Quiapos, Benjie Conzales, Loy Solasco, Ted Whale, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Johnny Manning Jr, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Augusto Natividad, Janet Johnstone, Richard Kendall, Carrie Angus, Susan Dalmas, Reuben Longid, Avelina Collado, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Sunny Cabanang, Christopher John Noppers, Jaqueline Acquiatan, John Aspinall.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P44,666.66	P1,938,373.68	P1,650,000	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P18,825.00	P411,272.85	P397,692.31	P940,000.00

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For question, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com