

TRINITY NEWS

Living Reminders in Story and Life

We are living reminders on earth of those who inspired us in our formative years. We embody and mentally repeat so much of what they taught us. We are unrepeatable as persons as they were in their generation. But the human models that appear in our life do impart something of themselves to us. We may delight in animal stories that touch our hearts, but they only enhance the ultimate model for us, the human one. This is one of the reasons why we are so distraught when a good model of personhood disintegrates before our eyes either through death or conduct that demolishes their image before us.

Some of Jesus most memorable words are now located at what we call John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jesus would do that in his own life. I remember the Amish girl of 13 with younger siblings who were about to be shot by a crazed gunman. She asked that she be shot first because they were only little ones. In 13 years she had learned to imitate the Christ who was luminous in her faith and in her heart. Some people stick in our minds while we live or perhaps beyond it because of what they inspired in us. Without in-spiration from the words and deeds of people who radiate spirited goodness we would be severely diminished.

Such people inspire individuals and families and nations and even the world. Nelson Mandela began with biased and even violent reaction to the way black people were treated in his country by the whites. But in a long prison term he expanded his heart and mind beyond the bars to include all of us. The people of my generation and some of yours will never forget him.

Some of our best models of those who have a deep intuitive sense of people's needs. They are not only intuitive, but they are also often gifted with the capacity to put their intuitions into practice by meeting the needs they perceive in others.

We long to be understood for our best practice and our best intentions. That is, for all that we deem to be worthwhile about ourselves. We long to be unforgettable, like the one born in humble circumstances in Bethlehem. He came bringing love, but it was a costly journey in human terms. We rail against our

suffering, but we all suffer. Whatever measure of earthly treasures we've been given, we will lose them all, and that is suffering in itself. This happens to all of us. Christ told stories called parables to introduce people to themselves and to him.

We cannot see our face when we are talking to another person unless there is a mirror at the right angle nearby. This is a disadvantage in every conversation that we may have. But we can tell them a story that enables us to 'see' them and be 'seen' by them in a more authentic way. There are limits to stories, but without them we could not rehearse the past, tell the present in a way that is more vividly human, or point to a future yet unknown in stories that mirror perceptive prophecies.

The briefest of lives can tell a long story that endures. Silence chills the ego, but a story told about people who have a real story to tell of love and care in the world, that can transform the ego and lift up the person who hears it and passes it on to others. **The retelling of the story continues the transformation.**

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Daniel 12:1-4a

Psalms 16

Hebrews 10:31-39

Mark 13:14-23

TO PLAN:

November 22. Sunday.

*Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7:00pm,
Santuario de San Antonio Parish. Dinner
follows.*

November 26. Thursday.

*Thanksgiving Dinner, 7:00pm, Holy Trinity
Parish Hall. A sign up paper is on the board.
Suggested closing date for booking is November 9.*

Please join us!