

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Friday, September 23, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

Who do the crowds say that I am? . . . Who do you say that I am? (Luke 9:18, 20)

We often think of Jesus as the teacher with all the answers. But of the 183 questions that people ask him in the Gospels, he answers fewer than 10. At the same time, Jesus asks more than 300 questions! What does this fondness for questions tell us? Maybe the two questions in today's Gospel can give us some clues.

"Who do the crowds say that I am?" is easy to answer. It's like an icebreaker game—a nonthreatening discussion starter. The disciples chime in to report other people's opinions. But then comes the type of hard question that has students praying that the teacher won't call on them: "Who do you say that I am?" Such a small change, but what a difference it makes!

Though the disciples have seen Jesus heal, exorcise, and teach with authority and power, they still find it hard to confess him as the Messiah. It takes courage and spiritual insight (Matthew 16:17). They sense that saying "Jesus is Lord" involves putting him at the center of their lives in a radical way (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Jesus' questions in this passage tell us a couple of other things about him. First, they reveal that he loves his followers enough to help them find the peace that comes from believing in him. It's because Jesus so passionately wants them—and us—to find life in him that he bothers to ask any questions at all. That's why the questions seem to leap out of the Gospels with a kind of urgent mercy: What do you think about what I'm doing and saying? How will you respond?

Second, notice how Jesus often leaves his questions unanswered. That's because he trusts that we are able to sense what is true and respond to it. We just need to quiet our hearts and listen for his Holy Spirit.

Even today, Jesus is doing everything he can—when we go to Mass, when we read the Scriptures, or when we think about the beauty of creation—to help us answer this most burning question: "Who do you say that I am?"

"Jesus, help me to hear your questions today. Thank you for leading me in such a loving, gentle way!"

Today's Announcements:

- Senior men who are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, please submit your application to Mr. Creel or Ms. Previto by today.
- Seniors, Herff Jones will be taking graduation orders next Wednesday, September 28, during lunch. Please bring your deposit of \$60 at this time.
- Senior yearbook ads are due to Mrs. Farragut in room 214 by October 21. Everything must be turned in together; this includes the form, pictures, and money.

- Drama guild members who wish to help with the Nativity haunted house, please see Mrs. Trahan today. Nativity's carnival is October 15.
- Science Olympiad teams will meet Tuesday, September 27, at 7:45 a.m. in room 215.
- This year's Fellowship of Christian Athletes officers are president, Morgan McCrea; vice president, Anna Clare Colson; secretary, Baylee Hodge; treasurer, Evan Smith. Coach Dellenger will have an officer meeting next week.