

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Thursday, February 9, 2017

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

His heart was moved. (Mark 6:34)

You had a long, tiring week, and now you're so glad it's over. After doing the dishes, you settle in for some relaxation when—just like that—the phone rings. The caller ID tells you that it's that one friend who always seems to have a pressing problem. Do you answer the phone? Or do you let it go to voicemail?

There may be good reasons to disregard the call. Rest, especially time reserved for quiet prayer, is an important part of life. But if you are following Jesus' lead, you might say a silent prayer . . . and take the call. Isn't that what he did in today's Gospel?

Jesus' plan had been for the disciples to rest after returning from their preaching mission. He wanted them to get away from the crowds and recharge. But when he saw the crowd awaiting them on the shore, "his heart was moved" and he changed plans (Mark 6:34). His "time off" became an opportunity to teach the crowd.

Like Jesus, we should all get in the habit of prayerfully setting our plans each day. But again like Jesus, we should also be open to the possibility that something—or someone—will come along and disrupt those plans. This verse shows us the importance of remaining flexible and open to the Holy Spirit, no matter what we have planned or scheduled for that day. It's this openness of heart that allowed Jesus to feed the five thousand on his day off, and it's the same openness that will make us more available to the people around us who need our attention and care.

We all make plans. Our lives are busy, and we often feel annoyed by interruptions. But Jesus wasn't annoyed. "His heart was moved" with compassion.

How open are you to letting God change your plans? It can be tempting to deflect interruptions or brush people aside because you want to guard your private time or finish your to-do list. But if you do that, you could end up missing an opportunity to make a difference—even a dramatic one—in someone's life.

So go ahead, and make your plans! Just don't be surprised when God interrupts you with an invitation to love.

"Holy Spirit, move my heart with Jesus' compassion so that I can respond with love at any moment."

Today's Announcements:

- Today, we will follow the liturgy bell schedule. We will have an adoration service this morning at 9:40.
- Due to health reasons, the Ordination and Installation of Bishop-designate Louis F. Kihneman as Fourth Bishop of Biloxi has been postponed. A new date for the Ordination and Installation will be announced at a later date. Please keep Bishop-designate Kihneman in your prayers.

- We are looking forward to our first ACT Boost Seminar tomorrow for all juniors and sophomores. Juniors and sophomores may wear jeans with any St. Patrick shirt to school tomorrow. You will meet in the cafeteria tomorrow morning at 8:15 - you will not attend your first period class first. Your teachers have the schedule for the day and a list of which students are assigned to which team.
- Students, be sure to give the registration packets you received yesterday afternoon to your parents. These may be returned to Ms. Dapremont at the front desk anytime. Ms. Wilkinson, Mr. Gruich, and Mr. Buckley will meet with students in March to review course selection requests for next year.
- Varsity and junior high track practice will be held today. Distance runners will meet with Coach McDaniel in the afternoon.
- Students, please remember to bring your gift cards for the William Carey University students - \$5 or \$10 to a fast food restaurant or Walmart.
- The sophomores are selling Valentine grams through tomorrow. The cost is \$3 for one and \$5 for two. See any sophomore for an order form.