

A message from Father Jacek...

Dear Friends,

This week I would like to share with you a few thoughts on a part of the last Sunday's Gospel (Mk 9:38-48). "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me," he says, "it would be better if a great mill-stone were hung round your neck and you were thrown into the sea."

The concept of the "little ones" was important in the Bible. The Hebrew word was "*anawim*", a word that is usually translated as "humble" or "afflicted", and one The Old Testament mentions often. They were the poor, the sick, the widows, the orphans, the slaves; those who seemed to be of no account in the world's eyes and who always ended up at the bottom of the pile. But the Bible tells us again and again that God cared for them and expected those who claimed to follow Him to help them and to treat them with respect.

We are the church – the community of Jesus' disciples, a group of people learning together, worshipping together, listening to God together, encouraging each other to serve and to love. And we should follow Jesus wherever he leads us in our practical expression of our love of God and neighbor.

The words of Jesus are profound; He sends us in a direction that can make us feel uncomfortable. God is at work among those the world calls "little ones". The struggling single parent, the homeless, the refugee and even ourselves if we are feeling low or suffering. When we look at the "little ones" at first glance all we see is need, but look closer, look with respect, look with the expectation of finding God at work and He will be there. Until we understand this, that our loving God works in littleness and humiliation – even in a man/God crucified on a cross – we haven't grasped the core of the Good News (the gospel).

As you know, October is the month of the rosary. On October 7, we will celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. John Paul the Great called the Rosary his favorite prayer, in which we meditate with Mary upon the mysteries which she as a mother meditated on in her heart (Lk. 2:19). In this month of October, let us consider this beautiful prayer of the Rosary as a means that we, too, can use in order to draw closer to Jesus and Mary.

On October 4th, I would like to begin a "rosary prayer ministry crusade" in our parish. There will be 3 rosaries with a booklet on how to say the rosary with all 20 mysteries available after each weekend Mass in the month of October. These rosaries are for you to take home and pray for the needs of the universal church, our parish, your pastor and your private intentions. They

will be located on the table next to the infant of Prague at the “ramp exit/entrance”. They are already blessed and they will be replenished as needed with 3 of them being available always. If you take one – please pray the whole rosary with the above intentions.

I will see you on October 4th at 1 PM for the blessing of the animals at the school parking lot. You might want to bring a bulletin with you which contains a Prayer of St. Francis. We will begin our gathering with that prayer.

In Christ's peace

Father Jacek.