



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY August 27 & BEYOND

What road will you take?



The Ruins of Caesarea Philippi

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it,” Yogi Berra. This is one of my favorite, Yogisms. He has been associated with many comical and quizzical sayings. This one leaves you asking, “Which way?” Which way do I go when I come to a fork in the road? What will happen when I do?

My favorite “forks” are T-shaped, designed around a stop sign where you must decide to go left or right. Let’s be clear, these are not political directions, but simply two options that one must choose from. At the very end of the movie, “Castaway,” Tom Hanks sits in his car at such a crossroad. He must decide which way to go. Which direction should his life take next after spending years on

a deserted island, losing everything and everyone in his life. Don’t worry, I won’t give away the ending, watch it for yourself.

I mention forks in the road because that’s precisely where Jesus has led the disciples. He has stopped his disciples at Caesarea Philippi: “Who do people say the Son of man is?” (Matthew 16:13). He has chosen this place because it is a spot filled with pagan gods and all forms of worship. It seems like a perfect stop sign to ask his disciples what they think. The disciples are quick to answer with many options: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, to name a few. Plenty of answers for just one question. It’s like answering a question with a question. It doesn’t address the fork in the road, does it? It leaves things unsettled and up for grabs.

But, Jesus is not done yet. He is not finished asking questions or leading his disciples. “But what about you?” Jesus asked. “Who do you say that I am?” (16:15).

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” (Matthew 16:16). The disciple’s bold answer is right on target, and seems to rise quickly from

his heart. There is no hesitation on his part. While he often spoken without thinking before, this time his words are filled with faith and truth. “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven...and on this rock I will build my church!” (Matthew 16:18).

Peter receives a profound blessing from his Master and Lord. Jesus offers Peter “the keys of the kingdom” (Matthew 16:19), an expression that emboldens and confounds the church for centuries. (A reflection for another time, surely). Still, he tells his disciples to keep this to themselves, tell no one that he is the Messiah. The time is not right, I believe.

Still, the time is right to make a turn in the road. Accepting that Jesus is the Messiah is life changing. The disciples will not be able to walk the same roads in the same way. They must face that their lives and their preaching will be different. Perhaps it is time for each of us to do the same. Change our hearts and walk a different road with the Son of the living God.

Father Steven L. Schuneman

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—*

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)
 9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
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