



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY June 10 & BEYOND”

Doing Good For YOUR Sake



It never fails. Someone shows up to be helpful, or offer a plan for the betterment of a community, a city, even a nation or the

whole earth, or actually does begin to make a difference in the world around them, and the first thing you know someone else comes along and wants to prove there are ulterior motives, such as buttering you up in order to take advantage of you in some way.

The story of Spiderman is like that, isn't it? It takes a while of doing good for people in general to accept the presence of a superhero. Even then, the local newspaper editor continues to constantly look for Spiderman's weaknesses to unmask him and show the world, you know, "who he really is." It's not NEARLY that bad, but I have on occasion on a morning walk stopped to pick up every piece of large litter along the way. I get looks from some of, "what the heck is that guy doing? Who does he think HE is? Better than US?" And I've done the same thinking, watching someone else on their walk stopping to pick up pieces of litter on THEIR way.

What is it in me that would think that, even when I have done the same good deed just as a good deed? What makes the newspaper editor in the Spiderman story an ongoing antagonist? What made certain teachers of the Law proclaim that Jesus was actually working for "Beelzebub" (the Devil) as the reason that he freed people from being demon possessed!? At the same time, people around him said he was insane for all the ministry he was doing without rest. And then even Jesus' own family, alerted by other people, came to restrain him from doing the ministry he was doing. With all the exorcisms and healings he was actually working, why weren't the people, and the teachers, and the family crying out, to the contrary, "Thank you, Jesus!" "Way to go, Jesus." "Can we get you some food, Jesus?" "Would you like to take a rest Jesus?" "How can we help you Jesus do this good work?"

I can only imagine, but I do so from experience in life -- some are jealous, some are ignorant, some have been hurt badly by someone (perhaps a parent or other religious leader?) who said they were helping them only to find out that were selfishly doing something for themselves, some have just had so many failures in their life (or a few major ones) that they don't want to trust anymore. Then there are those who are doing exactly what they are condemning Jesus for doing, that is, putting their own agenda first perhaps from control issues. Into that mix are a lot of people who could care less – they just want to be healed and free (and if they don't get it they get mad at JESUS for not getting to them).

Somewhere in there are people who are truly appreciative, who see the Good, Merciful Heart of Jesus, and offer thanks and praise. Jesus decides, though, to direct his calm response to the teachers of the Law. It is a simple argument. He said, *"How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come."*

Jesus thus says, *"What you are judging is not possible. This battle is kingdom against kingdom; not from within."* And then he proclaims the impending end of Satan's kingdom. That's good news. And I love the next bit of good news when he says, *"But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered."* By saying this – and by showing it that very day – Jesus is telling us that there is no stronger man than Jesus, than God.

Not even Satan (who likes to portray himself as the Strong Man, so to speak) can withstand the ministry and the power and the authority if God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the middle of all that, Jesus speaks pastorally to those pressing in on him, and for all of us today. He says that if YOUR kingdom – your own being, your family, your prayers, your church, your community -- seems to be at odds within itself, then the Strong One you need to turn to immediately is Jesus Christ. Don't come up with an excuse to not look to Him for assistance. He will meet you in your turning. Why? Because He loves you, and wants the best for you.

Alleluia.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: **The Third Sunday after Pentecost**

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

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

Note: 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: AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)