

A Message from Father Vincent

May 22, 2022

Dear Friends:

I hope my message finds you all happy and well.

In the readings these last few weeks, Jesus is preparing His disciples for His departure. He is preparing them for His ascension into Heaven where He will be seated at the right hand of God the Father. In preparing for my message to you, I would imagine that Jesus's disciples were concerned about His leaving them. Some invested the last three years following Him and listening to His messages. They witnessed His miracles and His healings. Now, they would be left alone. I would imagine that some would feel lonely at the thought of Jesus's departure.

I meet many people in my ministry who suffer from loneliness in this world. They are all around us. However, Jesus reassures us that He came into this world and has never left us. He is with us always – especially in our loneliness.

I would like to point to John 3:16 for a moment and a book with the same title by the author Max Lucado (an author that I reference often). He tells us that John 3:16 is:

A twenty-six word parage of hope: beginning with God, ending with life, and urging us to do the same. Brief enough to write on a napkin or memorize in a moment, yet solid enough to weather two-thousand years of storms and questions. If you know nothing about the Bible, start here. If you know everything about the Bible, return here. We all need the reminder. God's treatment [to our loneliness] is prescribed in John 3:16.

He loves. He gave. We believe. We live.

3:16 - The Numbers of Hope, Max Lucado, p. 8

So, I ask that you think about loneliness in another way - through the eyes of faith. When we look at it this way, loneliness takes on a different meaning. God works in our lives, even when we feel lonely at times. Though loneliness has many forms—through the eyes of faith, it has but one purpose. Loneliness is when God appears in those moments of us feeling alone – perhaps when we lose something treasured from our life – a spouse, a parent, a child, a dear friend - so He can be closest to us in those times.

This means that loneliness is a tool in God's hand, an opportunity for a right response by us, His children, to draw closer to Him. It takes that dreaded word lonely and makes it an instrument to experience God's grace and His love for each one of us.

You are His beloved. We are never truly alone. Rest in this!

Now a few words of thanks and some upcoming events.

1. Our Ministry Fair last weekend was an enormous success. Thank you to Carolyn McNamara and the ministry leaders for all that they did to make this a success.
2. The Little Sisters of the Poor will be joining us this weekend. Please take a moment to talk with the Sisters and all the good they do in this world.
3. We will have a reception for Deb Wyka after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 22nd. Deb will be leaving OLM as music minister at the end of the month. We thank her for her years of service at OLM. We will welcome Rossana McLaughlin, our new music minister, at all the Masses next weekend.
4. Please check the parish website for upcoming events here at OLM.

Thank you for all you do and for being part of the OLM family. You are a blessing. You are loved.

In Christ,

+ Father Vmatt