

May 17, 2020

This was a great weekend for me, I hope you had some greatness in yours. As I said in the Words for the Wind for today, Trinity, issues the invitations for our lives, we just have to respond, and God's "doings" make meaning and joy and depth in the ordinary moments of our lives.

Friday afternoon I did a funeral service in a funeral home, my first in months, 23 people, most in masks, all seated at least 6 feet apart except for the immediate family. The deceased was a man I knew over 40 years ago and had not been in real contact with since then and I was retrieved from that past by his family at the time of his death. What a privilege! What a gift to me!

I was properly distanced and masked, my glasses were fogged, I was weepy as is almost always the case these days, so I had all kinds of liquids gushing out of my eyes and nose. I was a mess, but it was so, so human

Yesterday morning, I presided at the committal liturgy at the cemetery for Anna Mae Krajewski, a longtime member of our parish who died at the age of 99. Anna Mae's son, David, had been a high school classmate and friend of mine who died of a heart attack not too many years after we graduated leaving his young family and his mother to grieve for many, many years.

After that, I met in "real presence" in our office but safely distanced with a young couple both raised Catholic who decided that now is the time to marry. The groom-to-be is unemployed because of the virus. The bride is a speech pathologist working electronically. They are in love and want to make that public and official in these times of loss they bring gain to us.

They had been put off for all kinds of reasons by other parishes and found us all the way from Lockport, Illinois. They had been good friends all during college but never dated until after college when he decided that it might be a good idea to have a date, so he flew to Texas where she was working to celebrate her birthday.

He got off the plane with a ribbon and bow across his chest with a Happy Birthday tag on it.

It was just great to be allowed into their happiness and their lives for just this brief interlude. They will be married in early August with a small group of family on a Saturday morning.

We are a blessed parish in these times of absence there is a presence not confined to buildings of brick and mortar but edifices of Holy Spirit, of that I am confident.

The Gospel reading for this 6th Sunday after Easter, is one of the most important texts offered to us each year but it is not usually given much real thought because the language is so very strange and the thought process that John has Jesus go through is complicated and totally new in conventional thinking and typical religious vocabulary.

It is really the essence of the Good News, in my belief, that love once real, is love never lost. Love once real, is love never lost!

Our egos so badly want to survive and live on and Jesus Christ is saying, get over or out of your egos and get into your loves. Rather than planning reunions and cocktails and judgements in the afterlife, listen to Jesus Christ, take him seriously.

Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem because a donkey has very outsized ears. Become an ass for Christ's sake, my friends.

If you take the time to look at today's Gospel story, John Chapter 14, verses 15 to 21, it could be well worth your time. Take Jesus at his word and believe that Jesus Christ is not asking us to believe in life after death but to change our consciousness and to become more confident in "presence without physical/material/social presence."

The catechism approach Christianity and, in our case, Catholicism was efficient, but it reduced the entire Good News to questions and answers and left out Mystery and Love and that was the case for a long, long time.

It is a testament to the Trinity that the families of Jack Kuna and Anna Mae and that that young couple, not just now, but down through the ages, that they needed the experience of a ritual of the Church when they have to follow their Love into Mystery.