

June 2, 2020

Our baptismal font is intentionally a circle, actually two circles, a large one and a smaller one.

The circle emerged in human consciousness as a symbol of perfection in a world of angular imperfection and incompleteness. Perhaps, the most memorable example of this in the western imagination and experience is the rose windows that we find in Gothic cathedrals but there are many other examples such as dream catchers, drums, balls and marbles and the games that gave rise to them especially ancient soccer, and if you are familiar with the term, mandalas.

Over the course of the last few months, I have had jarring and complicated dreams at times, especially at the beginning of the quarantine, and I am told many of you did as well. I have found it very difficult to concentrate or to attend to details as I am sure some of you have, too.

All of that, I assure you, is quite normal as our consciousness has had to process data and images we never had to process before.

The angular imperfection of the world becomes painfully more evident every day and every night and in these times, the uncertainty and incompleteness is all around us and within us and, despite the dangerous rhetoric all around us that comes from inside of sad and insecure and damaged hearts, there is no end in sight, there is no quick and easy solution and the potential for ever more chaos is very, very real.

On the last weekend, I spoke of Martha and Mary and Lazarus and their dwelling in Bethany, the place or dwelling place of affliction, and I spoke of the fact that those characters and that place can be found only in the Gospel of John and that Jesus loves them and has dwelled within their dwelling place, their home, and that it is a place of love and wisdom and work.

You know that our Holy Family table puts Mary at the head of the table and that she is 9 months pregnant but that shrine is intentionally a symbol of non-violence as the inspiration for it found in the Gospel of Matthew tells us that when Joseph found Mary pregnant and he was not the father he had a dream which told him to have no fear and he not expose her to the law and kill Mary

and the baby which was his right, but instead brought her into his house and put her and the baby at the head of the table.

Learning to dwell in the house of affliction and the dwelling place of love is tough work. Keeping our minds and hearts from toxic ideas and feelings is tough work. Remembering that we are all made in the image and likeness of God is extremely tough work, but we have no choice if we are to call ourselves disciples of Christ.

If Jesus could fix all of this and hasn't done so already, I would not want anything to do with that Jesus, so I will not offer you Sweet Jesus words as these times are bitter and harsh and Jesus can not make it all better, only we can, one thought, one feeling, one person, one moment at a time..