

## Fr. O'Connor's Homily January 26, 2020

Pope Francis has proclaimed this Sunday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, as Sunday of the Word of God. Pope Francis is inviting us to deepen our appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and His Word.

This morning I'm asking you to reflect on the place of the Word of God, the Bible, in your life. Of course the Word of God has a very special place in our Mass. We read from the Gospel every Sunday. And we read from the Epistles and the Hebrew (Old) Testament as well. These readings from the Bible are a major source of God's revelation, a strong source of our spirituality.

My hunch is that some of you find the Bible to be mysterious. So today I'm going to make some suggestions which can strengthen your familiarity and understanding of how to read the Bible, of how to understand the Bible. Recall that two Sundays, earlier this month, I spoke to you about Lectio Divina/ Sacred Reading. Today I hope to be a little more practical, hands on.

I'm looking forward to Lent which begins a month from today, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

I'm inviting each of you to enter into the practice of Lectio Divina during Lent. I'll walk you through this practice again today.

Just to review, Lectio Divina can be done on your own or even better as part of a Faith Sharing Group. So today, I invite you to be part of a Faith Sharing Group during Lent. But if you prefer doing it on your own that is fine.

We have a sign-up sheet in the rear of the Church. We are all beginners. Don't worry about your level of familiarity with the Scriptures. You have the Holy Spirit in your hearts. You are capable. This can be the beginning of a new adventure for you. We will travel with you on this journey.

Lectio is a very simple process. You'll be amazed how easy it is, the depth of your sharing and the joy you experience. Now just a simple review of how Lectio works:

We read the Scriptures three times. The first time we respond to the question, "What did you hear?" What touched my heart? You choose a word or phrase from the reading. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading we respond to the question, "What does it mean to you?" The 3<sup>rd</sup> time we respond to the question, "What will it cost you to live up to this word or words you choose?"

After each reading there is a period of silence, a prayerful silence before responding to the questions.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church, if you feel drawn to the practice or if you have any questions. Just sign up. We'll get back to any of you who sign the sheet. Please feel free to ask questions or if you're looking for some reassurance.

Remember you can participate in a group or by yourself. This practice can be very rich and rewarding.