

Fr. O'Connor's Homily – February 9, 2020

If you were watching the CBS News on Friday night, you saw a story about multi-millionaire, Pete Kadens, who pledged to pay the college tuition for 108 seniors who will graduate from Scott High School in Toledo, Ohio this June. He insisted that this was not a gift but rather his responsibility.

That's the zinger. He really believes that this is his responsibility. This doesn't sound like the way Americans think these days.

Listen, once again, to Isaiah's words in today's first reading. *Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked when you see them.*

Listen once again to Jesus' words: *You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before others.*

These are high standards- demanding. Yet this is our calling, our vocation as believers in Jesus, dare I say, our responsibility.

You might say, "Isn't my life complicated enough?" Sure it is but Jesus can't be ignored. This is what he is asking, expecting.

Family Promise is a way of reaching out to homeless families. And do you know about 400 volunteers are welcoming the homeless in their parishes? Light shines in the heart of these parishes who welcome these families. This kind of light, of love, can transform the lives of people, even a parish.

Not long ago, I was visiting parishioners in a nursing home. I started wondering, how many of the people here are lonely, desperate for human contact? How many of them have few or no visitors, especially those who can't talk?" How much happier they would be if someone came to visit them and how it would enrich the life of the visitor?

Responsibility, salt of the earth, light of the world. Wow!

Many of you are strong lights. Many of you are salt. You help to enlighten our world. Think of our mustard seed collection started by Judy Houck.

Do you ever wonder where someone gets the nerve to step forward? Where do you begin?

Well of course you begin with your family, with your companions. Think of your parish. Think of gathering with a group of parishioners and sharing your faith in a Lectio Divina Group. It doesn't cost a penny but how rich you become by giving and receiving light.

And here at the Eucharist as we share the Word of God and then participate as a parish family in the great Eucharistic prayer and the sharing of Jesus Body and Blood.

Share your bread with the hungry, as Pete Kadens says, "This is not a gift, it's a responsibility."