

Reflection Wednesday Week 22 – 2020

In writing to the Corinthians St Paul was always concerned with uniting the community so that it become a cohesive family working together for the common good. In the Gospel Jesus was fully aware that those possessed, the crippled and the lame were often rejected by the community, not allowed to belong. So, Jesus makes it possible for them to return to the community so that it, too, could more effectively work for the common good. We have no difficulty in believing that Jesus' word brings life and healing for he is the Word that existed at the beginning of creation The Word that gave life. When we offer words of support, affirmation, praise, and encouragement, they, too, bring life to the hearer. Life that benefits not just the individual but the whole community; like the sun bursting through on a cloudy day lifts everyone's heart. This month is celebrated as the *Season of Creation*. We are called to focus not just on the harm and destruction we have caused but on the positive steps we are going to take, not only to change our way of living but to encourage and nurture creation so that it works, as it wants to, to heal and nurture us. The ecumenical family has called this season of Creation *a Jubilee for the earth*. Jubilee is a sacred time to remember, return, rest, restore, and rejoice. Pope Francis says, "A Jubilee is a time of grace to remember creation's original vocation to exist and flourish as a community of love. We exist only in relationships: with God the Creator, with our brothers and sisters as members of a common family, and with all of God's creatures within our common home. "Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth" (LS, 92)"

Oh dear . . .!!!

A sobbing Mrs Smith approaches Fr O'Grady after mass.

He says: "So what's bothering you?"

She replies: "Oh, Father, I've terrible news. My husband passed away last night."

The priest says: "Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Did he have any last requests?"

"Certainly father," she replied. "He said: "Please Mary, put down that gun."