

Reflection Thursday Week 33 - 2020

Despite the way he has been treated by the leaders of Israel, Jesus truly cared for the people and the whole nation. His intense pain at what will happen to them runs very deep. Life, however, is full of opportunities, so many, it is impossible to respond to them all. Our most difficult challenge is choosing which to respond to. Jesus came to live among us to help us with our choices and, even if we make a wrong move, he does not abandon us but helps us make the best of a bad job – the sign of a true friend. Revelation or Apocalypse reminds us that in baptism we share in the status of Jesus in his kingship, his priesthood and as a prophet. Kingship speaks of the dignity with which we have been made, the power we have been given to preach the good news through our lives, our love, and the care and protection we give, beginning with our families. Priesthood is about being ministers and channels of grace and service to all, especially the most vulnerable. The prophet always stood up for justice and honesty, fought against the unjust use of power, and against corruption. Empowered with this status by Christ we are capable of great things because he has made us temples of the Holy Spirit who is always ready to help us do what is right and good.

The King's Highway

Once upon a time, a king had a magnificent road built for the people of his kingdom. Before it was opened to the public, the king offered his subjects a challenge. "The one who travels the new road the best," he said "will receive a box of gold!"

As the contest began some came in fine chariots, some wore fine clothes and carried fancy food for a luxurious journey. Some wore sturdy shoes to run along the road and show their skill. All day they travelled the highway but, when each arrived at the end, they complained to the king about a large pile of rocks and debris that blocked their way and hindered their journey. At the end of the day, a lone traveller wearily crossed the finish line and went to the king. He was tired and dirty, but he addressed the king with great respect and handed him a small chest of gold. He said, "I stopped along the way to clear a pile of rocks and debris that was blocking the road. This chest of gold was under it all. Please have it returned to its rightful owner." The king replied, "You are the rightful owner." "Oh no," said the traveller, "This is not mine. I've never known such money." "Oh yes," said the king, "you've earned this gold, for you won my contest." "He who travels the road best is he who makes the road better for those who follow." And we can all do that!

A man is driving up a steep, narrow mountain road. A woman driving down the same road leans out of her car window and yells "PIG!"

The man immediately leans out of his window and replies, "BITCH!"

They each continue on their way, but, as the man rounds the next corner, he crashes into a pig in the middle of the road and dies. **If only men would listen!!**