

## **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **A Glimpse of My Heart:**

As we closed the 2020 Advent Season, A Glimpse of My Heart appeared. As we begin the Ordinary Time we begin this new liturgical season with another Glimpse. Now our Liturgical Season begins Ordinary Time, but at the moment, we are experiencing an extraordinary period in the history our Lives, our Country and the World. This glimpse of my heart will look back a little and also anticipate a little.

As we look at the Advent landscape, there are two critical values, honesty and courage that we look at in the life of Mary, St. Joseph, and the Shepherds, John the Baptist, the Shepherds and the Magi. In Mary, her honesty is immediate, I do not know man and she has the courage to relate this to the Angel. With the Angels' explanation, she has the courage to say yes, be it done to me as you mentioned. Then the shepherds hearing the message of the Angels hasten with courage to see this thing and the honesty to announce the birth of the Savior to the community and the world, "Glory to God in the Highest." As the New Born Savior grows in Wisdom and Age, John the Baptist voice proclaims his coming, callings all of us to prepare the way of the Lord. When he is described, he appears to be strange according to our standard of living. But we have the hungry, the poor, the homeless, addicts, and those who need medical and psychological help living on the streets, highways and byways. But John had the Honesty and the Courage to proclaim what he was assigned to perform. Finally the Magi, with their astrological studies end up in Bethlehem looking for the New Born Savior, but were honest with Herod but had the courage to find another way home and not return to Herod.

In today's gospel we begin with John the Baptist's arrest because of his honesty and courage because he told Herod of Tetrarch it was unlawful for him to marry his brother wife. Then Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel, this is the time of fulfillment and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Then, He proceeded to choose men who would assist him in His ministry. His call to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men, they abandoned their way of life to accept a new way of life, in short they would experience a revolutionary change in their life. They would need honesty and courage; the kingdom would not be earthly, but spiritual, honesty not dishonesty, not selfish but unselfish, not distrusting but trusting, avoiding evil, but doing good and bearing good fruit. Jesus would mentor them for about three years, but during the passion, they panic and fell apart, but after the Resurrection they gained confidence and replace the old normalcy with a new normalcy.

In 2021, we need a new normalcy, we need new attitudes, new leadership, we need morality, wisdom, honesty and courage. How do we get this? First before we can build we need to realize that bit by bit we have cut and watered down truth so that it has evaporated, we have become politically correct and in using denial we ignore and minimize it, then we ask what happened. Now we see and experienced. Jesus was truthful but He never brutalized anyone or stripped anyone of their identity. Like the Apostles we are being mentored by Word, Our CCD Program, by the Leadership in our Parish Organization, Our Prayer Life, and the key for all of us is a strong spiritual foundation because when the storm comes we will be able to stand, the Virus, Unemployment, Poverty, Addiction, White Supremacy, Inequality, Violence, Abuse, and finally being treated like a non-human being. When as I glimpse in my heart, telling myself what the other person needs to

do, I immediately realize that is exactly what I should do. For those Glimpses have helped me to grow, be patient, kind, and let go of the record/s of wrong doing, compelling me to love unconditionally, what a challenge but because of this as I travel, honesty and courage are the bright lights of our elders. I would like to end with these quotes, one from Nelson Mandela and Dr. Martin Luther King! Mandela says, "The human body has an enormous capacity for adjusting to trying circumstances. I have found that one can bear the unbearable if one can keep one's spirits strong even when one's body is being tested. Strong convictions are the secret of surviving deprivation; your spirit can be full even when your stomach is empty"! King, the Truth will set you free!

**Now, WHAT IS OUR PERSONAL FREEING PHRASE OR CONVCITION THAT MOTIVATES US TO GO FROM CRISIS-CHALLENGE-CHANGE AND I HOPE ALL OF US INCLUDED, WHAT DR. KING SHAES WIH US, "THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE"! AMEN, AMEN, AMEN! HAVE A BLESS WEEK!**