

Mass schedule: Monday P 6:00pm/ Tuesday Nursing Home 9:00am/ Wednesday P 6:00pm/ Thursday P 8:00am, VB 4:00pm/ Friday P 8:00am

Homily 3rd Sunday

This past week has certainly been an interesting week showing the celebration of unity and efforts at disunity. We celebrated Martin Luther King and recalled how we finally overcame slavery after 184 years and are making some success in race relations. We celebrated World Youth Day in Panama where young people from around the world gathered to share their common faith. Some managed to get out of Pakistan to do so. Some were in a boat for 5 months. We celebrated Christian Unity week recalling how our diocese has had an ongoing dialogue with the Assembly of God for years. Isn't it interesting that one of the greatest lies Satan has ever pulled on the Christian people was proclaiming the 'bible alone' as a source of faith, knowing that it would lead to the 33,000 plus denominations we have today. The bible alone sounds so beautiful knowing that all Christians reverence God's word. But remember, even in the first reading we heard how Ezra had to interpret the scriptures for the people. God relies on those whom he appoints to always interpret it so that there is a living voice. He says 'I will be with you all ages'

You have heard the saying 'sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.' That is a nice mime to remember as a way of keeping one's cool when being accosted. But we all know words have meaning. Today we witness the conflict of the master of lies and Jesus who is the Word, the Truth. Satan does not always come at you with outright lies. When he tempted Adam and Eve what did he say, 'did God really say that?' 'he created doubt and started a conversation which led to the fraction of the marriage as well as the relationship with God. How about his temptation of Jesus 'if you're hungry you can turn this stone into bread.' His effort is always to destroy, to make good sound evil and evil sound good. So, when the president issues a statement to defund Planned Parenthood, New York comes out right away on the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and celebrates a law to allow abortion up to time of birth. That makes it apparent that Satan is on the run as he becomes more blatant in his lies. If he can't reach adults directly he works on them through their children as he did this past week when a group of Covington teens were verbally abused by another group and then had an Indian approach them while beating a drum right near their face. The news was set up to catch a glimpse and portray it as the students surrounding and taunting the Indian. Satan's strategy worked so well that even the young people's superiors and bishop got on the band-wagon condemning them immediately. In our readings this week we hear of how God deliberately created many varieties of people and talents for the good of the whole but Satan continues to use those differences to help bring about division. Who will Satan attack next? You. As Bp. Chaput said several years ago. He expects to be harassed but he expects his successor to end up in jail, and his successor to be killed. This week we are faced with the choice: of listening to his lies and accepting Jesus who is the Word, the truth or buy in to the many ways Satan tries to create division.

World Marriage Day Feb. 14. Celebrate your love