

Coop's Scoops #118 Thursday, October 22nd, 2020

This "Cooper Scooper" is tremendously happy as she writes to you today. We have just held our very first Eucharist in Browning Hall at St. Thomas since March the 8th.

As I watched ten parishioners come in the door and through our safety screening process, I was grinning ear to ear. Real faces, real people, gathering. And the joy we shared in celebrating the Word and Sacrament was floating in the air...I could almost smell, touch and taste it. Most importantly, Jesus was amongst us!

Thanks be to God and thanks to those who came. This Friday at 10am is fully booked. Next Wednesday morning is almost full, and the next Friday has several openings. You will be called, if you have not already been called, to see when you might be able to attend OR you can call the office Tuesday-Friday to make an appointment with Tracy or Cathy at 705 645 3486. We are going through the entire Parish List to ensure that anyone who wishes to come has the opportunity to do so, and then those who have already come will be able to do so again.

Our Lake of Bays brothers and sisters are so welcome to come....just call if you feel comfortable participating. I do understand totally why many are waiting for a healthier time, and practicing life is small bubbles. God will bless your faithfulness however it is you worship no matter where it is done. But for today, for this first day, I'm "singing in the rain" with a happy, happy heart.



THANK YOU ST MARY MAGDALENE, DORSET!

Behold your Altar! And your Altar hanging. We are so blessed to be able to have the Altar in Browning Hall for our pandemic and then occasional services. We are rushing the season with "blue", but a "green" wasn't picked up with the others....is it still lingering about? We'd love to have it, if so. Meanwhile the Advent colour which encourages us to

prepare for what God is about to do is a great reminder each and every day! So blue it is. Thank you for your gift to us. I know that there are many memories tied into seeing this picture, and I trust you will be glad to know that what “was” is “again”, in a new place, but for the same purpose: the glory of God!

A Few Reminders:

- There are some Forward Day by Day booklets available for November, December, January still available. If you can come by the church, you can pick one up from the basket on the bench outside the main doors. If you can't come....call the office at 645 3486 and we will find a way to get one to you. Cost is \$1 if you're able!
- **Kids Kids Kids** I know that Halloween is going to be different this year....fun, but different. For one thing, the awesome Messy Church Halloween party can't be held. We will all miss seeing your great costumes and make up! I would LOVE IT if you could ask mom or dad to take a picture of you in your costume (or take a selfie!) and email it to me so I can do a picture show in Scoops. Hope you have a great time doing special things at home or however you are going to be Trick or Treating. Some photos from Halloween Past!



Hope you're already smiling, but here's some more!

An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said,

'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes, 'was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel. By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks.. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.. She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him.. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now.'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her....

'Are you God's wife?'

Another.....A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

Scripture for Today: Luke 4; 42-44

At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Homily:

This tiny little portion of Scripture has much to say! We read lots of times that Jesus was not welcome, was even run out of town, almost tossed off a cliff. But it cheers me to know that Jesus found a warm welcome in some of the places that He worked. Near Capernaum, quite close to Peter's house, Jesus left the synagogue and went to an isolated outdoor place. He taught the people who'd come, looking for Him. They decided to try to prevent from leaving. Who wouldn't want Jesus to stay forever!!!

But Jesus told them He had to go and He told them why. He said that He was sent for a purpose and had to get on with it. So why had Jesus been sent? To save us? To heal people? To correct the religious system? To bless the children? Well, that's not the purpose Jesus said He had. His purpose, the reason God sent Him, was to proclaim the Good News to many cities, teaching in the synagogues. Did you get that? It kind of blows my mind.....**Jesus was sent by God to be a preacher.** Yup, to preach. To tell the truth in the "churches".

So matter how many times I might think my preaching doesn't really matter, or that no one really needs to hear it, or that I'd be serving God more down at the food bank or doing street work.....according to Jesus, the most important He did was to proclaim Good News and that is therefore the most important that this poor preacher can do as well.

Of course we have works and deeds of love to do. Some of us are called to be teachers, some helpers, some pastors, some administrators (see 1 Corinthians 12:27-31), and some priests and some deacons, and some healers. Some of us are even called to be "God's Wife", like our little story today. We are not all called to the very same tasks, and no task is superior to another. We are one Body. However, **if one is called to be a Priest, the primary job should be preaching.** Proclaiming the Good News. And doing it well, with authority, and with discernment and wisdom. Wow! Those with other callings, other vocations such as Deacon's called to serve, Lay Readers called to assist in

Worship, Sympathy Tea helpers called to make food and so on...all will serve magnificently if they can somehow support the Priest to do the work of preaching by taking on as much as possible of the other tasks. And Priests have an obligation to let the laity do that....to not be an " I can do everything, and want to do everything, and will do everything" sort of Lone Ranger. To understand that people called to specific tasks with specific gifts will be the best people to do them.

I have been blessed to be called to people who know how vital they are to me being able to preach. For you see, that is why God called me and sent me over twenty years ago into many far off places...to preach the Good News in the churches. Thank you to everyone for enabling this ministry. I pray that others will enable you in the things you have been called to do. And for sure, not every preacher is a Priest! So let's all of us, whatever our gifts and callings, get on with it to the best of our abilities with the support that the whole Body provides.

Meanwhile, I'll be preaching tomorrow morning! Bet you're excited! Just kidding.

Judie+

Prayer: Lord Jesus, your proclamation of the Good News is what has ultimately brought us to YOU. The Good News has changed our lives, our minds and our hearts. Thank You for teaching in all the synagogues rather than abiding in places of comfort and welcome. May we, with whatever gifts and callings You have provided us, do our best to serve you well that the whole Body of Christ will continue to proclaim You as Lord and Saviour, Amen.

Blessing:

Christ, our Saviour, come thou to dwell within us, that we may go forth with the light of thy hope in our eyes, and thy faith and love in our hearts. Amen (St. Augustine).