

Homily - Year 10 B - June 10, 2018

When you look at our church buildings, either St. Patrick's or St. Anthony's, we see that the founding fathers of our parishes wanted these buildings to last. They are rock-solid, or perhaps more accurately, brick solid foundations. They also wanted these buildings to tell a message, the message of Jesus Christ. So, when you spend time contemplating the interiors of our two churches, you will see the story of our faith. The stained glass tell the stories from scripture and from the history of the Church; symbols tell the depth of our beliefs; pictures illustrate those famous saints from centuries past who have lived the faith expressed in our buildings. Our buildings tell us what we should be celebrating and expressing in our lives.

Likewise in today's Scripture readings, we hear a God of the OT telling humanity that we must obey God's law or there will be consequences and that, in life, we will have to face challenges. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds his listeners about the true basis of life. If we build our lives only on power, influence, prestige, or achievement, our lives will crumble. He reminds his listeners that ultimate strength and power come in a living and loving relationship with him and with his people, the Church.

Those first believers in Jesus had Jesus himself with them, so to speak, a living, breathing image. He shared his message in word and lived it in his life. The early preachers repeated that message, and over time people put that message into images leading to the great art that we have in the Church, including our own two churches.

In our capital campaign, we want to preserve the message, not merely the buildings. If we do not preserve our message, then no one will. Remember what I just said: true strength and power come from our attachment to Jesus and to his people, the Church. Is that not what we do when we come into St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's? We come to worship. Our beautiful space is meant to uplift us to what is beyond us. Our celebration of the sacraments bring what is beyond into our lives. Baptism, Eucharist, Penance, Marriage are all celebrated here because the beauty of our churches brings us beyond what we can do as mere humans.

If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully make a commitment to our capital campaign. Let us preserve and improve what we have so that future generations may have the opportunity to see, hear, and feel the message of Jesus and the strength of his people.