

33rd Sunday. B Cycle 11-15-15

- **Compare opening a door at Omega's Coney Island and opening the door on the University of Detroit/Mercy campus. What is the difference? The underlying awareness in the midst of every day life that there is another way of living and another purpose for life.**
- **The experience I had at U of D/Mercy is closer to what I experience here at the greeting of peace, people consciously trying to extend the peace and care of the kingdom to others.**
- **In the midst of the tumultuous things happening, whether that be the terror attacks in Paris or someone losing their home through foreclosure, or a student struggling with failing grades or a married couple separating from each other, the kingdom is coming to life.**

There is a great temptation to get caught up into the troubles of the day if we do not build in time for reflection and focusing of our daily lives. (Every three hours.)

It is in that same spirit of living in troubled times that we read the words of today's Gospel. We hear of wars and insurrections, of the stars falling from the sky and sun and moon losing their light. In the midst of the great destructive activities we are tempted to respond with anxiety and fear. We are tempted to not notice the small ways the kingdom of God is breaking through. Jesus says, "Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and its leaves sprout, know that summer is near".

People constantly get overwhelmed by the troubles life. Take for instance, the young neighborhood men who play basketball here on Sundays. Many of these young men are at an age of not believing in God, or more clearly said, shedding an understanding of God which cannot embrace their new experiences of life. Frequently anger and fear and anxieties can rule their lives. Often without an adequate education, lacking good job and coming from challenging households, life tempts them to turn to despair or rage or just zone out by taking drugs, alcohol, or pursuing other destructive pleasures of life.

Yet even while facing all these troubles, each Sunday they build in at least a few moments of prayer before beginning to play basketball

and again, at the end of their time together, to pray...to try to let eternity penetrate time, to see the budding of life in the midst of chaos life can often deal out to us.

My brothers and sister, we meet people like these young men every day.

In fact, we ourselves can be caught up with the challenges of life.

But we who are disciples of Christ Jesus we have a unique call.

Our call is to be aware of the kingdom of God is bursting forth in our midst of life's troubles. It may be just a small bud, but it is there, spring is coming. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our hope is secure.

And our call is to be heralds of the kingdom of God for others.

- Opening doors.**
- Praying.**

One example: Detroit Community Clergy Association: Story of walking in the neighborhood last Friday.

The awakening of a young adult outside of a drugstore.

Wonderful prayer led by a minister who has obviously heard the cry of his people and the hope we find in the risen Lord.

Young adult's response.

In the midst of the challenges of life, our loved ones await good news..., our children, our parents, our extended family members, our classmates and our co-workers, our neighbors and our enemies. And we, through reflection on the Gospel and witnessing in word and deed can bring the good news that, although it seems a long ways away, springtime is coming.

Example: time of prayer at the end of the Sunday afternoon reflection.

It has taken me great concentration to try to understand them:

Five years of listening ... prayer and listening

We know that the kingdom of God is coming:

We are called to be ambassadors of good news and just not in church on Sunday but each and every day.