

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



Today's Readings:

Foreigners drawn to the Lord. Is 56:1,6-7
Sent to pagans, and proud of it. Rom 11:13-15,29-32
Woman, you have great faith. Mt 15:21-28

Next Week:

You are Peter, the rock
Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36;
Mt 16:13-20

In a nutshell

Stunning instances of faith pop up in unexpected places. That's the message in today's Gospel of the Canaanite woman. Although she did not enjoy any of the privileges and supports of belonging to the chosen people, God had deeply touched her life. Jesus clearly acknowledges this and praises her active and persistent faith.



Gifts in our midst

Says the pastor of one parish...

It's amazing what we take for granted.

Week after week, people come to Mass in our parish church without knowing the stories behind the beauty that surrounds them. In fact, until recently I didn't know myself that the brass candlesticks, the sanctuary lamp, the holy water fonts, the ornamental dove on the lectern... all these were made by the hands of a local man who is not himself a church-goer.

This man's gift to the parish came about through his family connections. His Dad, now long deceased, crafted the brass altar rails in the 'old' church all those years ago. A remnant of the railing has been preserved in our current church. His son took up the craft and continued the family business. When the 'new' church was built (1980s), he contributed many of its brass features.

This man's mother was a faithful catechist for many years, as well as

being a member of the Altar Society, the Paulians and the Catholic Women's League. A very humble lady. She was never one to tell you about all her involvements. I knew nothing of this family's lasting contribution to the parish until just recently when I was asked to celebrate the funeral of the mother. In talking with people, the stories came out. Quite an eye-opener, really. And very humbling.

I'd like to urge people to get to know the stories from their own parish history. Most importantly, to honour the generosity, love and sacrifices of the people who 'built' their parish both physically and spiritually. Church-goers or not, they are all stitched into the fabric of our life as a faith community and have enriched us with their gifts.

An eye-opener

I was thoroughly enjoying the workshop. However, my attention was challenged by a strange tapping noise behind me. Who, I thought, would deliberately distract the audience from such an engaging speaker? When there was an opportunity to turn around and solve the mystery, I was appalled by my own insensitivity. The 'culprit' was a young woman who is blind. She was using a Braille typewriter to record her notes from the gathering. From that moment, the soft tapping didn't annoy me at all, because I recognised its purpose and usefulness. How often are we disturbed because we are ignorant, and relieved by understanding? No wonder my grandmother would say, 'Knowledge is no burden to carry.' (TE)



church below the rooftops

A proclamation of faith

I was talking with a teenage boy and somehow we got on to matters of faith. I knew this boy was not a church-goer, and I wasn't expecting a strong interest in the topic. To my surprise he came out with, 'If I didn't have faith in Christ I would have given up on life a long time ago.' (I got the impression he meant suicide.)

I was rocked! A very thoughtful conversation followed; lifegiving and educative for both of us. (Anne)

Think .Talk

Describe a time when an example of great faith popped up in an unexpected person or place.

Why did this encounter seem unexpected?

In what way did you come away changed?



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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