

Abraham is 1st prophet of strangeness. Gn 18... Three strangers encounter Abraham in the desert Abraham risks hospitality when he could not possibly know...

Annunciation... Mary ponders what these words could mean. Might have said no.

God is possibility of impossible...

Where does this happen... In the face of other...

We cannot experience God by direct relationship or mystical fusion.

To Encounter a face constitutes a penetration of the crust of human being who preoccupied with themselves... encounter a person, a new reality emerges = a fundamental absurdity.

Goodness challenges us... Here is someone more important than yourself.

Wakening to this reality... shudder of the incarnation in which we discover what it means to love... not the desire to have the other person for yourself or to get something back from them but the unconditional affirmation of the other... To really love God or others is to want them to remain other...

Our Prayers

Let us pray for our church as we enter this journey of renewal, that our hearts will burn within us as we meet Christ in the stranger in the road, we pray to the Lord...

Let us pray for Christians who journey in this Lenten season, that we will discover anew the mercy of God, we pray to the Lord...

Let us pray for peace in all war ton countries and hope for all immigrants on the road today, we pray to the Lord...

Let us pray for those who hunger to see a face at the door or a voice on the phone, that they will be blessed by our presence, we pray to the Lord

Let us offer our own prayers to the Father... for these blessings we pray to the Lord...

Next gathering: Monday, March 18 at 10:15

“Mother Maria of Russia... on uniting the Cross and the Sword”

Monday, February 19, 2024

A warm welcome to everybody!

ENLARGE THE TENT

"Removing our sandals before the Sacred Ground of the Other"

The Art of Accompaniment Part Two with Fr. Tim Boyle. Sessions will be livestreamed at 10:30 am, followed by Mass at 11:15 am. Third Monday of the month.

ST. MARTHA'S, LETBRIDGE
● LIVE AT STMARTHASPARISH.CA

MONDAY, 19 FEB AT 10:30 AM | **MONDAY, 18 MAR AT 10:30 AM**

Finding the real Presence of God outside the Church | **Mother Maria of Russia... on uniting the Cross and the Sword**

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Finding the Real Presence of God outside the Church

Checking in...

Do you hear young people say I find God in the mountains or in creation?

Are you challenged by the message the church should be more concerned about people than prayers?

Do you feel torn between being reverent in church and saying hello to someone you haven't seen for a long time?

Finding the presence of God

Immutability of God, all powerful, all knowing, omnipresent powerful

Make ourselves in the image of such a god = apathy

Deliverance... shift from bad state to good state... does not change us

Predicaments are to be avoided... nothing can be learned from suffering and so nothing is learned.

Does this fit the reality world... proclaim the death no longer has power over us; Christ is risen from the dead. If risen, how to reconcile our belief that death has been conquered.

God aloof unchangeable distant is fantasy such a God does not exist

Second emphasis gospel about communicating information...

We have God as we have gospel... Protestant gospel is Christ

Francis image of the Lord knocking on the door... road to Emmaus upends both images

Paul presents Christianity rejecting particularity and going to others. Paul crossing borders of Israel... a paradigm for church. Instead second Israel not a truly new Israel

Church at Pentecost should speak all languages

simple question of why did God create the world.

God created the world to dwell in it; garden of Eden at beginning and new Jerusalem at end are about home. God the creator is a homemaker God.

You can't be a human without a home. Forces hostile... never have enough time we're always running behind... where I am never good enough...

Whether poor or rich rush through meals worrying about left undone catching up on the news multitasking. Hamster wheel can never be a home. Home needs time. Presence.

Second modern monster whom we could call Medusa, the one who turns things into stones... People and things matter only as means but not in themselves.

Jesus's homelessness... God wanted to create a world where everyone is at home with God.

God is by nature not dependent but chooses to depend on us as an act of love...

Parent adopts a fetal alcohol child... figure of someone tortured death against our idea of power.

Jesus a man for others with nothing but love no weapons no magical tricks no privileges. God lets himself be pushed out of the world onto the cross he is weak and powerless in the world and that is precisely the way the only way in which he is with us and helps us.

If God was not powerless God would not be absolute love. God who does not offer guarantees but possibility... Faith is found in divine possibility = attentiveness to how present is opened up and transfigured from the future

The burning bush... promise can be realized only if those who receive it... do not betray its potential for the future. Bible is story of the different ways of responding to the foreigner

But choice for hospitality or hostility cannot be absolutely proven. It remains undetermined a wager... seeing the divine in the stranger... is a choice and a wager.

Finding God in a stranger translates into possibility of divine in every stranger.

God revealed after the fact...every encounter between human and divine is a wager...