

How does Christ's mission continue today?



Adult Faith Formation

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During Lent 1994 our parishioner, Barb Keffer, led us in a retreat based on Ignatian spirituality. It was a wonderful experience and my big "take away" was Barb's suggestion that I learn to live the questions. I remember how intriguing that was to me at the time because for many years the first questions that came to mind concerning faith/religion were questions from the Baltimore Catechism: Who made you? Why did God make you (this was a clue to the answer to the first question). What is grace? What is a sacrament? What is sin? What are the precepts of the church? Etc.

This was problematic because those questions had informational answers but not necessarily formational ones. They gave me an "A" in my religion classes, but they didn't invite further exploration. It got me thinking that perhaps there are deeper things we could be asking, but what?

This month's faith formation focus is "How does Christ's mission continue today?" This challenges me to think about my role and responsibility in continuing Christ's mission, and it also raises more questions than the ones I grew up with that had such logical answers. Here are some of the things I'd like to offer for further reflection:

- If we say that Christ's mission is to proclaim the Kingdom (or Reign) of God, what does that mean? When I think of Kingdom I think of a static geographical place, but where? I don't think it's Jerusalem, Washington D.C., Rome or even the Chancery. Maybe heaven, but where is that?
- If the New Jerusalem is a place "where peace and justice kiss", could that place be in our hearts, our parish, our church or our world?
- Is the Kingdom of God a place we go to or a disposition we grow into?
- When I think of the Reign of God, I think of something more dynamic and present that we are living into and out of – or attempting to do/be.
- We are living in a world that is longing for peace and justice to kiss. What are the small and large ways we are making this happen?

What questions does this raise for you? I think considering the questions we are living can make for great family dinner conversation. Thanks again to Barb for sharing her wisdom.

Mark your calendars – for some important dates:

February 25 – (Saturday) Morning of Reflection (still being planned)

February 29 – (Wednesday) Art Zannoni will lead us in a scripture study on the conversion stories in John's gospel. (Child care provided)

March 28 – (Wednesday) Art Zannoni will lead us in a scripture study on the passion narrative in Mark's gospel. (Child care provided)

April 19-21 (Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturday morning). We will be offering a Christ Centered retreat for the parish. More information will follow

