

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 1st 2018

We all have seen “Before” and “After” pictures used to sell diet foods, exercise equipment and plastic surgery. We all know people in such bad shape that they can make a living as a professional “Mr. Before”. Today’s scripture readings give us “Before” and “After” in three scenes. Actually, it’s “before” and “after” and then “after that” pictures.

Today’s first scripture reading taken from the “Old Testament” it is called “The Book of Wisdom”, describes the World as it came fresh from the hand of the Creator, GOD. It says “God did not make death. He fashioned all things that they might have being and the creatures of the world are wholesome. God formed man to be imperishable.”It shows us that all of creation is filled with the life of God. It is the natural world in all its beauty that all of us here, may have a chance to experience to some extent this summer.

Then something snapped “But at the envy of the devil death entered the world” says the Book of Wisdom, today’s first reading. This refers to our split from God that ruptured creation in the original sin. It is as though God had created a magnificent and splendid glass window, like the stained glass in many churches. Everything fits together and then suddenly it was shattered.

This is scene two of the “after” scene which is the human world we now know. We can pick up each of the pieces of glass and see a little of the beauty of the original creation still there.

We all know the awesome power of our sexuality to transmit life; the capacity of us human beings to make choices that can shape our life, the power of our fidelity to remain faithful to our promises for our lifetime the birth and growth of children, the capacity of our human minds, to invent, to imagine as in the mapping of our human DNA; our drive and ambition to improve our community, to shape our world, build a city ,go to the moon. Never forget we live in America, the can do society.

The most admired nation in the world despite its country problems.

These are all magnificent pieces of God's original creation but each of these pieces broken from the rest (like the glass) has a jagged edge, and it can harm us. We know how sexuality when separated from its purpose in marriage can dominate a person's life even obsess a person and occupy his or her every thought and action .We know how ambition can trample on people and nations. We know how indulgence in drugs and alcohol can destroy a life; family and society. We know how human beings by the evil they do can turn a city into a war zone, how technology can serve sinister purposes like the temptation of the internet.

In each of these cases the power of the original creation is still there but it is broken off from its center, the pieces no longer fit easily together. The inner harmony, the coherence, the link to God that held everything together were lost by original sin.

Jesus came to put the broke pieces together into a new creation. We see that in scene three (the "after that" scene) in today's gospel. Jesus restores a small girl to her family and heals that woman with "that flow of blood". By that healing the lord not only heals her illness but also restores her to her community. Through, His miracles, the Gospels, we see Jesus through his teaching and now through his Church and the Holy Spirit putting together the broken pieces.

Do all the pieces fit together in our lives? Or do we cut ourselves on those jagged edges? Are we willing to settle for a broken world, to look at the broken pieces and sigh a sigh of regret about original sin? Or do we know and thrust that repair and healing can take place in our lives and between people? That thrust of the Gospels is that we don,t hazve to settle for broken pieces or broken lives .Jesus can help us put the broken pieces together in our lives and then in our world. But, first, like the woman in the Gospel , we have to reach out to him,go to him, and

come to him. So often we look to mend our lives in externals and move to a new neighborhood, get a new job, buy new clothes , get a new therapist__ when we really need healing and mending on the inside . Jesus gives us that deeper healing, He is a wonderful and wise Physician because He heals us from the inside out. He is a wonderful and wise physician always on call. AMEN.