

Wednesday March 13, 2019

13 Readings: no. 226, p. 391 1st Reading: Jonah 3.1-10 Gospel: Luke 11.29-32

Jesus, describes himself with reference to the Sign of Jonah. Remember Jonah, three days and nights, engulfed by a whale, or sure bet, captivating tomb, after fleeing an assignment given him by God. Certainly, after liberation, he wouldn't make that mistake a second time. But lo and behold a second assignment sends him to evangelize the nasty and godless people of Nineveh. To everyone's surprise, they are turned from their former ways. The king of Nineveh, feels compelled in gratitude to lead a type of Ash Wednesday liturgy that of course highlights prayer, fasting, and conversion. Jonah however, isn't buying in to any part of this people's transformation, and just wants God to strike that nation down. Instead, God shows mercy and forgiveness, reflecting upon poor Jonah, the reason is frustrated. He hasn't yet leaned about Mercy.

Jesus is of course much greater than any of Jonah's preaching or testimony. But, signs and sacraments, friends, always point and guide believers to someone deeper and more profound. Jesus who at the center of creation is the truest and complete sacrament of God! And Mother Church, who is the sign and sacrament of Jesus, calls her members to become convincing sacraments of Jesus. We move in that direction by accepting ongoing transformation and bringing love and mercy to others.

Turning away from and discarding anything in our lives, not representative of Our Lord! From the sacramental exercising of our Baptismal vocation, our Confirmation graces, and most Holy Eucharist we give representation of our identity, as children of God. In our practice of Reconciliation and Healing we project the humility of God on a world, so in need of peace. And with our devotion to Marriage or in Single State and in Holy Orders we faithfully kneel before others in service.

Amen