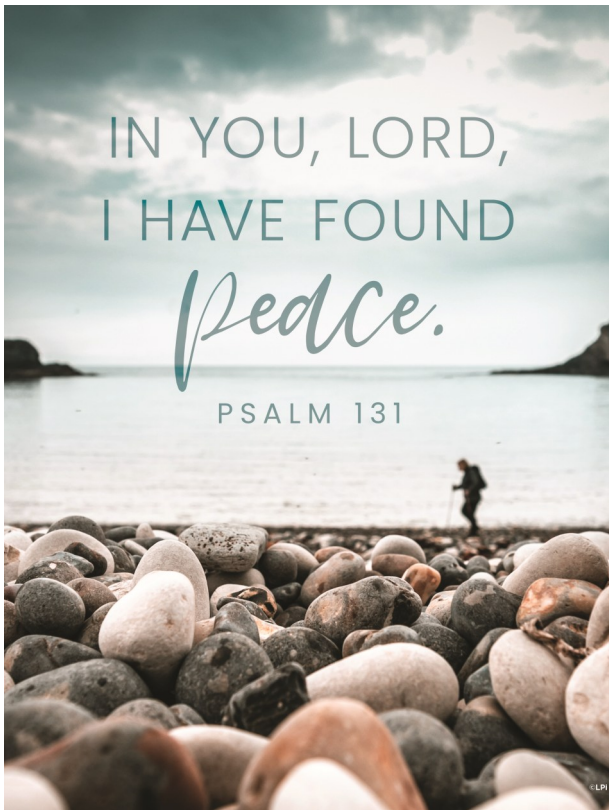


FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What is this peace that Christ gives and that we pray upon one another? The peace that He gives, which is not like that which the world gives? There is a story told about peace that may help answer that question.

It seems that one day an artist was commissioned by a wealthy man to paint something that would depict peace. After a great deal of thought, the artist painted a beautiful country scene. There were green fields with cows standing in them, birds were flying in the blue sky and a lovely little village lay in a distant valley. The artist gave the picture to the man, but there was a look of disappointment on the patron's face. The man said to the artist, "This isn't a picture of true peace. It isn't right. Go back and try again."

The artist went back to his studio, thought for several hours about peace, then went to his canvas and began to paint. When he was finished, there on the canvas was a beautiful picture of a mother, holding a sleeping baby in her arms, smiling lovingly at the child. He thought, surely, this is true peace, and hurried to give the picture to the wealthy man. But again, the wealthy man refused the painting and asked the painter to try again.

The artist returned again to his studio. He was discouraged, he was tired and he was disappointed. Anger swelled inside him; he felt the rejection of this wealthy man. Again, he thought; he even prayed for inspiration to paint a picture of true peace. Then, all of a sudden an idea came, he rushed to the canvas and began to paint as he had never painted before. When he finished, he hurried to the wealthy man. He gave the painting to the man. He studied it carefully for several minutes. The artist held his breath. Then the wealthy man said, "Now this is a picture of true peace." He accepted the painting, paid the artist and everyone was happy.

And what was this picture of true peace? The picture showed a stormy sea pounding against a cliff. The artist had captured the fury of the wind as it whipped black rain clouds which were laced with streaks of lightening. The sea was roaring in turmoil, waves churning, the dark sky filled with the power of the furious thunderstorm. And in the middle of the picture, under a cliff, the artist had painted a small bird, safe and dry in her nest snuggled safely in the rocks. The bird was at peace amidst the storm that raged about her.

The more we understand and receive this peace the Lord wants to give us, the more our youth and those around us will understand and receive this peace. **Speaking of youth, next Sunday, May 25, at the 10:30 AM Mass, Bishop Michael Saporito will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our 16 candidates.** Let us pray for them, that the Holy Spirit may transform them and make them witnesses of Christ's Resurrection.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950, helps us to better understand 'temporal' peace. Her religious congregation was devoted to helping those in need and she became known for her selfless work in the slums of Calcutta. Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her humanitarian efforts and was canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church on September 4, 2016. Her legacy continues to inspire millions around the world to engage in acts of charity and compassion. She once said, "If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."

Peace,