

Homily — OT 3 A, 2020
by Rev. Bob Schramm, OSFS

I had another one of those experiences of losing something this past week.
Now if you were here last week you may be saying to yourself,

"Is this guy losing it?"

I'll leave the answer to people much better qualified than I am.

But if I were you, I certainly wouldn't rule out a "YES!" to the question

Here's the story.

I had doctor's appointment Friday morning
that I was running a little late for.

It was at UT Medical Center on Glendale and Byrne.

Because I was late, I flew into the center for the appointment,
not thinking much about where I had parked.

After the appointment, I went back to the parking lot
where I *thought* I had parked.

Have you ever been to that parking lot?

Everything looks the same.

So I'm searching around for my car.

After a little while a woman walks up to me and says,

"Excuse me sir, by chance are you looking for your car?"

At that moment, I'm wondering to myself what I must look like to her.

So, rather than look even more befuddled, I said, "Well ... ah ... Yes"

In a most pleasant voice the woman responded ,

She said, "Please let me help you find it. Tell me what the car looks like."

And off she goes in search of my car after handing me her keys.

I'm searching in one direction and she in another.

A few minutes later we meet up, neither of us having been successful.

Next she says to me,

"Come on, jump in my car, we'll go looking together."

And off we go.

About two minutes later, we found my car

in a lot totally on the opposite side from where I was first looking.

I thanked her profusely and both of us went off.

Now the next question you'll probably have is

"and so what does all that have to do with today's readings?"

In the second reading, Paul is talking to the Corinthians
about dissension (serious divisions) in the community.

"some belonging to Paul, some to Apollos, some to Cephus, some to Christ."

Since the beginning, there have been simmering divisions in families, in the Church in civic communities.

- I know Catholics who work tirelessly to recover our common ground and others who find such talk a threat to being orthodox Catholic.
- I know those who like their Gospel served on Eternal Word TV Network and those who find NPR meets that need.
- I know Christians who believe stringent gun control is the only way to a safer society and those who think such thinking is downright insane.
- I know Catholics for whom being "pro-choice" is always a grave sin and others for whom that is not necessarily always true.
- I know two sets of brothers who are not speaking to one another because of their division over Donald Trump.

Each of us could compose our own list,
finding our emotional heat rising with each entry.

The Church has always carried, and probably always will carry, creative and painful tension in its body.

But as Paul and Matthew remind us, what we have in common is that,
like the Corinthians, we have found Jesus to be light in darkness;

We who have been summoned to gather others into new life
are called to work out our own differences
in ways that serve the body of the Church
and enable that body to serve the world.

Women who helped

"The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light!"