

## 2020 Jubilee Homily

July 26, 2020

Buenos Dias – Good Morning

SALUDOS! // ESTÁN CON NOSOTRAS EN ESPÍRITU. // CONTAMOS CON

SU PRESENCIA CON NOSOTRAS // Y CON SU ESPÍRITU DE CELEBRACIÓN.

GREETINGS! YOU ARE WITH US IN SPIRIT. WE COUNT ON YOUR PRESENCE AMONG US  
AND YOUR SPIRIT OF CELEBRATION

### What will you do with your one wild and precious life?

*(A Summer Day, Mary Oliver)*

50, 60, 70 and 75 years ago we, the Jubilarians of 2020 made a choice – one that has informed and unfolded in us in ways that we could not have imagined – and that “yes” has made all the difference

...

As with all of our Jubilees, we processed in – and, even behind your masks and from wherever you are joining us we can feel your smiles – and love pouring out over us. And we are so grateful!

However, for a few moments, I would ask you not to look AT us, but to look WITH us ... To consider WITH us where we stand at this moment in our journey and to join WITH us in answering that same question:

Today – in the world in which WE live –

“What WILL WE do with OUR ONE wild and precious life?”

Today’s parables of the treasure // UN TESORO ESCONDIDO EN UN CAMPO and the pearl of great price // UNA PERLA DE GRAN VALOR are only two of the many ways that Jesus, the great story teller, took the lived experiences of his followers and wove them into images that challenged, yes, disrupted, their way of thinking and living, with the hope that they would get some idea about what this kingdom that his preaching and his life were all about.

Anne Koester in her reflection on today’s Gospel notes,

Funny thing about parables; they disrupt our ways of thinking, our ways of trying to resolve things and keep life tidy. (in Catholic Women Preach / July 26, 2020)

So, I wonder – what of **our** lived experience would Jesus weave into a story that would disrupt **our** ways of keeping our lives neat and tidy? How would he finish the sentence for us?

In our COVID 19 / climate change / children taken from their parents at the border / black lives matter / white privileged world, what is “the kingdom of heaven like ...” so that we would choose to sell all that we have and commit our lives to its unfolding?

What comes to mind is the story that science is revealing of the universe itself – an unfolding, not yet completed, diversified, inclusive, interconnected universe.

If the universe itself is unfolding and not yet completed, then why are we surprised that our work for justice is incomplete as well?

If **all** is interconnected then what **do** we take into consideration when the universe itself is saying that our choices impact the lives of others – even that of Earth itself.

If the universe is becoming more diverse not less, then how are we opening ourselves to not only include but to respect and rejoice in that diversity.

And if the universe is all about relationships rather than division, then how are we reaching out in compassion and forgiveness so that all may be one?

To this understanding we bring our belief that this universe, everything that exists, is “created out of divine love” and that this love dwells in all.

This is the God that Jesus revealed by his life among us ... God who **is** Love ... who **is** the heart of everything.

This is the God that we have come to know in Christ – this is the God we are called to reveal by our lives.

Christ has no body now but ours ... we're it! We are responsible for how we bring God into this world ... for making visible the loving, compassionate, forgiving, inclusive Love that is God.

**We** have “been sent to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners ...”

So that with Mary we can proclaim God's greatness for “the hungry will be given every good thing, the rich will be sent away empty, and all will know God's mercy.”

Jesus tells us that giving our lives to the unfolding of this kingdom is the treasure in the field – is the pearl of great price – is worth selling all for.

The death of John Lewis last weekend has profoundly touched the hearts of many. Stories of his life: his birth as the son of an Alabama sharecropper, his work in civil rights, his beating on the Edmund Pettus Bridge and his leadership in the House of Representative have been shared. The image of his standing, arms crossed, face mask on just a few weeks before his death on the street mural near the White House of “Black Lives Matter” speaks volumes.

A recent tweet that he wrote in late June speaks, I believe to us gathered today:

“Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”

It would seem that if we truly give our lives to acting justly, loving with deep compassion knowing who we are as God's children for the sake of the kingdom, the beloved community, that we are going to get into a lot of “good trouble.”

In a few moments we Jubilarians will be called by name and invited to renew our vows in the midst of this community. In doing so, I think I can speak for my sister Jubilarians that the risk of the “yes” those many years ago was well worth it.

AND it still is!

So, we invite each of you, members of the beloved community – to get into a lot of “good trouble with us” – to renew with us your own commitment to be a part of the great unfolding of the kingdom – in justice, in love, in humility – and to do it in this, our COVID 19 / climate change / children taken from their parents at the border / black lives matter / white privileged world. The only world we have.

This is what **we will do** with our one wild and precious life!