

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 3, 2024

Gospel: (John 2:13-25)

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area saying, “*Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.*” His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, “*Zeal for your house will consume me.*” At this the Jews answered and said to him, “*What sign can you show us for doing this?*” Jesus answered, “*Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.*”...He was speaking of the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Reflection:

The simple call of the gospel is to see the signs of God in our midst. This story gives us a glimpse of the human struggle of often failing to see and believe the signs of God. Jesus showed us the signs so clearly; he was crucified and then raised up. Like Jesus, the zeal that ought to consume us, too, is a single-mindedness about suffering and dying to ourselves so that we, too, can live. Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, so will we be raised up. (Living Liturgy, p.84)

Vincenian Meditation:

St. Vincent tells us: “It is our vocation...to set people’s hearts ablaze, to do what the Son of God did, who came to light a fire on the earth in order to set it aflame with his love. It is not enough for me to love God if my neighbor does not love him. I must love my neighbor as the image of God and the object of his love...I must act in such a way that people love their Creator and each other in mutual charity for the love of God who loved them so much that he delivered up his own Son to death for them.” (US Manual of the SVDP, p.54)

Discussion: (*Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence*)

Does zeal consume us, so that we can set people’s hearts ablaze with God’s love?

Closing Prayer:

When we look into the wondering eyes of a child,

-Help us to set their hearts ablaze.

When we reach out to the homeless,

-Help us to set their hearts ablaze.

When we walk with those caught in poverty,

-Help us to set their hearts ablaze.

When we listen to the fading voice of the aged,

-Help us to set their hearts ablaze. Amen

