



Peace and Division

Today's Gospel seems to be full of contradiction. Jesus speaks of setting the earth on fire, presumably with His love and peace. Yet, he proceeds to tell us that He has come for division. How do we reconcile unity and division? It is true that God's Kingdom is one of peace, justice, unity and love. However, sometimes our efforts at making the Kingdom come alive for people require that we stand up for what we believe at the risk of being unpopular or rejected.

Jesus reminds us that discipleship has its cost. Sometimes saying and doing the right thing will not be popular or accepted by those who say they love us. Sometimes being a Christian will cause others to move away from us, because they do not accept the Gospel or see it as relevant in their own lives. Of course, we always hope that people who have turned away from Jesus will someday return to Him, like the Prodigal Son. Being a Christian does not mean that we have to pit ourselves one against the other. It means that we must strive for unity and peace. Because our world is not yet perfect, and we are not yet perfect, there will be times of conflict and misunderstanding.

Is it all worth it? Is the "blood, sweat and tears" of being a Christian worth it? Most certainly! We will have a world set on fire with the love of Jesus. That fire symbolizes energy and positive action. Let us say "Yes" to Jesus today! Let us not become discouraged in our efforts at setting the earth on fire with Jesus' love. Let us work together so that our world will blaze with the love and peace that comes from Jesus and is so contagious that all who experience it will be transformed into the person God wants them to be!

Father David

Capital Campaign Update

As of August 6, we have collected \$161,391.00 for our Capital Campaign. Our goal is \$250,000. I thank all those who have supported the campaign thus far and ask those who have not yet responded to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to this important campaign to ensure that our buildings are beautiful and worthy of the many things we do in the parish complex. Thank you!

Fr. David