

SEPTEMBER 29-30

WE ARE ENTERING WEEK 4 OF OUR MESSAGE SERIES

- Called "BE OPEN to Journey with Jesus"
- We are asking ourselves to be open to a relationship with Jesus Christ
  - o And to commit our lives to serving Jesus as his missionary disciples
- The first week we heard about the deaf and mute person
  - o Who is brought to Jesus for healing and had his hearing and speech restored
  - o And we spoke about how we may be deaf or blind or mute before God
    - But how a personal encounter with Jesus can bring healing and wholeness to us as well
- The second week we asked ourselves the question: Who do you say Jesus is?
  - o Not just knowing facts about him such as his birthday or his parents' names
  - o But really coming to know the person Jesus Christ, the son of God
    - Coming to know this good news about his death and resurrection
    - Coming to experience his gift of salvation for us
      - And therefore knowing of God's love and mercy for us
  - o Our goal is really wanting to know Jesus
    - Personally and intimately
      - So that we can be both his disciples and his friends
- Last week we discussed the struggles and challenges of being a disciple
  - o And asked ourselves how OPEN are we to being a missionary disciple
    - Knowing that just as with Jesus
      - Being a faithful disciples can lead to ridicule, revilement
        - o Even death
    - But trusting that if we are doing God's will
      - Then any struggles or sacrifices will be worth it
      - Because they are the result of doing God's will
        - o And we know God will not abandon us if we are doing his will

THE TOPIC THIS WEEK IS BEING OPEN TO SERVICE

- To open ourselves to serve the people of God
  - o Especially here at OLC but ultimately in whatever situation we find ourselves
    - At home, at work, in school, in the community, wherever
- This weekend is also Ministry Sunday for us
  - o Because we want to invite you to commit or recommit yourselves
    - To being of service to our Christian Community
      - Gathered together here at OLC
  - o Everything you see that happens here
    - Is only accomplished because of you, our parishioners
      - Who volunteer your time and talents to support our mission
  - o And although we say "volunteers"
    - You are really "ministers" because you are ministering to others
      - In one form or another

- OLC could never do ALL it does without your assistance
  - o So I first want to say “Thank You” for your ministry here
  - o And invite you to this weekend to BE OPEN to Serving Jesus by Serving Others

#### IN THE FIRST READING TODAY

- We hear about a need that Moses has that is being taken care of by God
  - o Although we don’t hear the context of this passage
    - We know Moses is overwhelmed by the amount of work he must do
    - To the point that he says to the Lord
      - If this is the way you will deal with me, then please do me the favor of killing me as once, so that I need no longer face this distress
    - That is pretty stressed out, wouldn’t you say
      - That death becomes a more appealing option than life
    - I imagine many of us have been stressed out by problems
      - At home or at work or at school
      - But hopefully we also remember to turn to God in our need
        - o And trust that God will intervene for us
- Because thankfully God does intervene for Moses
  - o And tells him to go and find 70 elders of Israel
    - That he can rely on to use as his assistants
      - To help him continue to minister to the vast number of people
  - o And so the Lord takes some of the spirit that Moses has
    - And places it on the 70 elders
      - Even those who were not gathered with the others
    - And they all begin to assist Moses
  - o The relevant point for us today is the last statement Moses makes
    - He says “would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!)
    - Meaning not just the 70 but every one of the Israelites
    - All hundreds of thousands of them
    - So that they all could assist in the work of ministry

#### WELL GUESS WHAT?

- As we move forward thousands of years
  - o With Jesus’ coming into the world
    - And the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church
  - o All of us DO have the spirit of the Lord bestowed upon us
    - So therefore all of us are ministers of the Lord in our day and age
- All of us who have been baptized
  - o Have been anointed priest, prophet and king
    - Meaning we are, by our lives, active participants in Jesus’ ministry
      - To offer sacrifices to the Lord – the priest
      - To teach the Good News of Jesus Christ – the prophet
      - To administer the temporal world as under God – the king

- This means we have a lot of work to do
  - If we really want to respond faithfully to the ministry entrusted to us

#### GRANTED THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SERVE JESUS

- As a baptized member of his body, the Church
  - For example, The Church offers us some suggestions in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
  - We also may serve others through our volunteer work
    - At different charities and organizations of which we are patrons
- But today It is my request that you be OPEN as well to serving here at OLC
  - As a minister in one of the many ministries we offer
- Today I specifically want to ask you to be OPEN to NOT running to your car
  - And getting out of here as quickly as possible after Mass has ended
    - But instead that you be OPEN spending some time at our Ministry Fair
      - Getting something to eat
      - Mingling with your fellow parishioners
      - And being OPEN to volunteering as a minister at OLC
        - During this upcoming year

#### THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Some require more time than others
  - Some require more skills than others
- Some are ministries we have had for many years
  - Such as liturgical ministries or teachers of the faith in our religious education programs
  - Others may be something new we are trying to start
    - Such as hospitality ministers or greeters, etc.
- I just ask that at whatever level you feel comfortable
  - That you come forward and put the portion of God's Spirit you have received
    - To good use here at OLC

#### THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE CAN BE DONE BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- And actually needs to be done before you leave
  - Because it IS to spend a few minutes at the Ministry Fair
    - And be OPEN to signing up for one new ministry this year
- It is only by your support
  - That OLC is able to accomplish its mission
    - Being a Lighthouse of Hope in our desperate world
    - And inviting all to come and see
      - What Jesus Christ has done for us
      - And announcing what he can do for you as well
    - If only we are willing to
      - BE OPEN to Serving Jesus by Serving Others