



3rd SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME ***YEAR C – January 27, 2019***

Today, on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Jesus gives us his inaugural address in the Gospel passage from St. Luke (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21). He says, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free.”

The vision that Jesus sets forth in his inaugural address is a vision that can be fulfilled, if we his followers, make it our vision too.

We are an important part of the Mystical Body of Christ as we hear in the second reading from St. Paul, (I Corinthians 12:12-30). Without us, Jesus' mission cannot and will not be completed here on earth. Why is that so? It's so because God wants us to be a part of that mission.

If the victims of poverty in today's world, like those in Haiti before and after the earthquake are to hear the good news of Jesus, the disciples of Jesus must bring it to them.

If the victims of unjust political oppression in prisons throughout the world are to be set free, we must raise our voices in their support and remember them in our prayers.

If the darkness of the world is to be lit up with the light of Christ, we must be the mirrors that reflect that light. A long time ago he sent his own Son to us. Sometimes he sends angels. Mostly now, he sends us.

Whether you are ordained or not ordained, married or single, whether you're raising your own children or teaching the children of other people, or doing both, whether you live alone or have more people in your house than you would like to have, the inaugural address of Jesus can be and should be your own.

The spirit of the Lord is upon you because he has anointed you at Baptism. He has anointed you to bring glad tidings to the poor including those who are spiritually poor and feel abandoned by God. You probably know someone like that by name. God needs you to help them.

He has sent you to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind including those who are captive to old ways; unable to see – to see the beauty that God has created for us on this side of the grave. There are still some people who think that God created us to suffer in this world and happiness can only be achieved in heaven. They are captives of old wine – the old teachings of the prophets of gloom and doom. They need to experience the new wine of Jesus and you can help them do that.

The Spirit of the Lord has sent you to let the oppressed go free. Unjust oppression comes in many different forms, none of which are intended by God. Is there someone in your family who is gay, or do you know someone who is? Are they being oppressed by anyone? What can you do about that?

For a few moments in silence, reflect on what Jesus is asking you to do; in your family, in your parish, in your community, in your part of the world.

Whatever it is, know this. You are the only one, who can do it!

