

3rd Sunday of Lent 2018

(Put on boa and mask)

So what do you think? I think this outfit deserves a “selfie” moment! And hey! It is Oscar night!

Someone gave me this boa and someone else a mask at last night’s Xavier Mission Mardi Gras fund raiser. And I was leaving I thought “There must be some way I can weave a boa and a mask into tomorrow’s homily”! I thought I knew what I was going to be preaching about. It was the line “Jesus tired from the journey sat down at the well.” I was going to begin with the question “anyone tired today”? And speak about how being tired is part of our human journey but also Jesus’. Not just tired physically, but tired of politics, tired of gun violence, tired of leaders with their bully pulpits, tired of seeing so many homeless but grateful for a place like the Xavier Mission.

But when I woke up this morning I thought of the boa and the mask. Hmm. Holy Spirit, come to me. And she did! That Holy Spirit, that **Lady Bird!**

Does this boa remind you of anything? Do you remember the first Sunday of Lent. The sign of the covenant is the RAINBOA. After God said “Noah, Look for the RAINBOA! And **Get Out** of that Ark!

Do you remember this jar of clay two weeks ago? It was filled with colors of the rainbow.

Had you come to any other liturgy this weekend you would have heard different scriptures. The first reading would have been the Covenant given to Moses in the Commandments. And as a reminder of that covenant this jar of clay is meant to be aflame with colors like the burning bush, the place of encounter where Moses asks the name of God “In that moment God reveals God’s self as I AM.” Could this be the first “**Call Me By Your Name**”

No you are here to support the Elect who will be scrutinized in this liturgy. They are called to acknowledge their “**Darkest**

Hours” and ask for the light of Christ to transform them. And because of the first scrutiny, we hear the story of the Woman at the Well. When she first encounters this stranger at the well, she has no idea of his identity. She has no idea of the **Shape of Water** that will flow from him. She has no idea that he is the Living Water. Both are wearing a mask that hide their “true selves”. It’s only in their dialogue that the masks come off. You could say that they bring out the best in each other. Jesus who is tired from the journey in this encounter with the woman, with her questions her doubts, her skepticism, energizes Jesus. She gives him the opportunity to reveal himself as God’s chosen One. And he gives her the freedom to be herself. She can remove the masks that hide her from her self and others. In this encounter she who also must have been tired from her journey is energized to go to the other Samaritans as perhaps even put up **Three Billboards** outside of Sychar! He told me everything I ever did! He is the Messiah! Go see for your selves”

A boa the color of a rainbow, a mardi gras mask, a jar of clay aflame with colors of fire. These have been the Threads of today’s homily. Yes, they may appear to you as Phantom Threads, but Sew what?

So, this homily is almost DUN-KIRK. I realize that the films I have referenced are about very serious topics. I did not intend to make light of them but rather acknowledge the power of the creative imagination that helps us see the joys and sufferings of human kind in ways that transfigure us. That is what God’s imagination in Jesus Christ does for us. And you, elect, are God’s rainboa as you are signs of God’s covenant for us. In your spiritual journey you remind us that God does call each of us by name and desires to mold us and shape our “jar of clay” in the image and likeness of Jesus. So now it is time for our first scrutiny.

Oh, in case anyone’s interested in reading, THE POST of the homily will be on the website.

