

THIRD SUNDAY - A - JANUARY 22, 2017

"REPENT, REPENT, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND"

**O'BRIAN PAINTED FOR A LIVING AND OFTEN HIS BID WAS THE
LOWEST WHENEVER HE BID A JOB.**

**THAT'S BECAUSE HE THINNED DOWN HIS PAINT BY PUTTING
TURPENTINE IN IT.**

**IT JUST SO HAPPENED THE CHURCH NEEDED TO BE PAINTED ON THE
OUTSIDE AND O'BRIAN BID ON THE JOB AND GOT IT.**

SO HE GOT TO WORK.

**AFTER A FEW DAYS OF PAINTING, THERE WAS A TERRIBLE
THUNDERSTORM AND THE RAIN CAME DOWN IN BUCKETS.**

THE PAINT ON THE CHURCH STARTED TO WASH OFF.

O'BRIAN WAS REALLY DISTRAUGHT.

HE ASKED GOD "WHY"? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?

WHAT DID I DO?

GOD SAID THIS IS YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR CHEATING THE CHURCH.

O'BRIAN ASK GOD , "HOW CAN I MAKE UP FOR WHAT I'VE DONE?"

GOD SAID, "REPAINT, REPAINT AND THIN NO MORE"

SORRY! I COULD RESIST - TRYING FOR MORE HUMOR

TODAY, WE HEAR ABOUT THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' PUBLIC MINISTRY

HIS CALL FOR REPENTANCE AND HIS CALL FOR INDIVIDUALS TO

FOLLOW HIM - A CALL TO BE A CHRISTIAN - ANOTHER CHRIST

THE CALL IS ADDRESSED TO EVERY ONE OF MATTHEW'S ORIGINAL

READERS AND TO US.....

WE CALL OURSELVES CHRISTIAN...

SO, LET'S EXAMINE THE CALL A LITTLE...

FIRST, NOTE THAT THE INITIAL DISCIPLES ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW A PERSON - NOT AN INSTITUTION WITH A PARTICULAR SET OF RULES OR REGULATIONS OR EVEN CERTAIN PHILOSOPHICAL CONCERNS....

THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THIS PERSON WILL LEAD THEM.....

ALL THEY KNOW IS THAT PEOPLE, NOT FISH, WILL NOW BE THE MOST IMPORTANT FOCUS IN THEIR LIVES...

NOTICE, THERE'S NO DELAY, NO LOOKING BACK...

THEY IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THEIR BOATS, THEIR NETS, EVEN THEIR FATHER AND "FOLLOW HIM"

HIS CALL MARKS A NEW BEGINNING IN THEIR LIVES...

THEIR RESPONSE IS THEIR CONCRETE REPENTANCE...

PAUL IN OUR SECOND READING SPEAKS TO US ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT COMMUNITY IS FOR US IN RESPONDING TO THAT CALL...

HE TELLS US THAT IS HOW WE WILL FOLLOW CHRIST, EXPERIENCE CHRIST

IN COMMUNITY.....IN HEALING THE DIVISIONS WITHIN COMMUNITY

HE REMINDS US THAT WE WERE ALL BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST.....

BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH....

A DEATH WE ARE EXPECTED TO IMITATE BY BECOMING ONE COMMUNITY....

***DYING TO OURSELF AND GIVING TO OTHERS, GIVING TO THE
COMMUNITY***

***AS RICHARD ROHR SAYS, IT IS NOT ABOUT BEING CORRECT -
IT IS ABOUT BEING CONNECTED...***

***ONE WAY WE DO THAT IS BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE LIFE OF THE QAC
COMMUNITY, CERTAINLY***

***ANOTHER WAY, WE DO THAT IS BY CONTRIBUTING ANNUALY
FINANCIALLY TO THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL...***

***CONNECTING WITH THE LARGER COMMUNITY - IT S SUPPORT OF
CHARITIES IN THE MIAMI VALLEY, THE ST. RITA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF,
TRAINING AND FORMATION IN THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND SUPPORT
FOR THE RETIRED PRIESTS...***

***THOSE MINISTRIES ARE EXREMELY IMPORTANT FOR BUILDING UP OUR
LARGER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN SW OHIO***

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN THE PAST AND YOUR SUPPORT IN
THE PRESENT...***