

FOURTH SUNDAY - A - JANUARY 29, 2017

I BELIEVE MOST EVERYONE IS ACQUAINTED WITH THE NAME - DOROTHY STANG, SND

DOROTHY STANG WAS A DAYTONIAN, BORN HERE IN 1931

SHE JOINED THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME - AFTER GRADUATING FROM JULIENNE HIGH SCHOOL...

SHE EVENTUALLY WENT TO BRAZIL AS A MISSIONARY - LATE 1960'S - EVENTUALLY BECOMING A NATURALIZED CITIZEN OF BRAZIL

SHE WAS OUTSPOKEN IN HER EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE POOR AND THE ENVIRONMENT - EVEN TO THE POINT OF RECEIVING DEATH THREATS

SHE BEGAN HELPING THE RURAL POOR IN THE EARLY 1970'S - HELPING THEM MAKE A LIVING BY FARMING SMALL PLOTS AND EXTRACTING FOREST PRODUCTS WITHOUT DEFORESTATION...

ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 12TH 2005 SHE WOKE UP EARLY TO WALK TO A COMMUNITY MEETING TO SPEAK ABOUT THE RIGHTS FOR THE AMAZON.

CIERO WAS A FARMER STANG INVITED TO JOIN HER AT THE MEETING, BUT HE WAS GOING TO BE LATE...

HE WAS A COUPLE OF MINUTES BEHIND HER, BUT WAS ABLE TO SEE HER AND HID FROM THE TWO ARMED MEN WHO FOLLOWED HER...

AS SHE WALKED ON SHE WAS EVENTUALLY BLOCKED BY THE TWO MEN, CARLOS BATISTA AND RAIFRAN DAS NEVES SALES, WHO WORKED IN A LIVESTOCK COMPANY.

*THEY ASKED DOROTHY IF SHE HAD ANY WEAPONS AND SHE CLAIMED
THAT HER ONLY WEAPON WAS HER BIBLE...*

SHE THEN STARTED READING A PASSAGE FROM THE BEATITUDES....

"BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT..."

RAIFRAN FIRED A ROUND AT STANG'S ABDOMEN....

SHE FELL FACE DOWN ON THE GROUND

RAIFRAN FIRED ANOTHER ROUND INTO STANG'S BACK....

THEN FIRED ALL FOUR REMAINING ROUNDS INTO HER HEAD...

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT....

THAT IS HOW MANY TODAY REALLY FEEL ABOUT THE BEATITUDES...

ABOUT THE POOR IN SPIRIT....

ABOUT THOSE WHO MOURN...

ABOUT THE MEEK...

ABOUT THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS...

ABOUT THE MERCIFUL, THE CLEAN OF HEART, THE PEACEMAKERS...

IT TAKES COURAGE - LIKE THE COURAGE OF DOROTHY STANG -

TO LIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY - WITHOUT RESERVE - THE BEATITUDES

IT'S A RISK TO LIVE A LIFE BASED ON THE BEATITUDES....

WE ME MUST WILLING TO TAKE RISKS -

THE SAME WILLINGNESS TO TAKE A RISK THAT CHARACTERIZED THE

LIFE OF A DOROTHY STANG

TO TAKE AN ALTERNATIVE STANCE -

THE BEATITUDES ARE DEFINITELY COUNTER-CULTURAL

MANY WOULD SAY - COMPLETELY CRAZY

NO WONDER JESUS CONTINUES ON....

***BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS...***

***BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN THEY INSULT YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND
UTTER EVERY KIND OF EVIL AGAINST YOU, FALSELY BECAUSE OF ME...***

AND THE REAL SHOCKER!!!

REJOICE AND BE GLAD!!! TOUGH TO SWALLOW, ISN'T IT?

***THIS MAN IS TELLING US THAT THE BEATITUDES ARE THE PATH, NOT
ONLY TO HOLINESS, BUT TO HAPPINESS***

HAPPY IS REALLY A BETTER TRANSLATION -

HAPPY ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT...

HAPPY ARE THE MERCIFUL....

WHAT COULD BE MORE UNAMERICAN...ESP. THESE DAYS

ALONG THE SAME LINES OUR SECOND READING ALSO TAKES A

***A COUNTER CULTURAL VIEW THAT WE NEED TO LISTEN TO ONCE MORE
TO SEE IF WE REALLY AGREE.....***

GOD CHOSE THE FOOLISH OF THE WORLD TO SHAME THE WISE..

GOD CHOSE THE WEAK OF THE WORLD TO SHAME THE STRONG

GOD CHOSE THE LOWLY AND DESPISED OF THE WORLD, THOSE WHO

COUNT FOR NOTHING TO REDUCE TO NOTHING THOSE WHO ARE

SOMETHING.....

A NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY ARE DOING SOME

WONDERFUL COUNTER CULTURAL KINDS OF OUTREACH AMONG US....

AND IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HEAR ABOUT THEM....

NO DOUBT ALL OF US ARE STRUGGLING TO LIVE OUT THE GOSPEL IN

SOME COURAGEOUS AND RISKY WAYS IN OUR LIVES...

SOME ARE IN RATHER ORDINARY SETTINGS, SOME ARE MORE DRAMATIC,

BUT ALL ARE IMPORTANT FOR US TO HEAR ABOUT....

PERHAPS YOU IN THE FUTURE MAY WANT TO SHARE WITH ALL OF US

WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING IN LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL - LET ME KNOW

TODAY WE WILL HEAR ABOUT ONE RATHER DRAMATIC AND

COURAGEOUS OUTREACH.....

SEVERAL WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY EVERY TUESDAY MORNING GO

INTO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL TO PARTICIPATE IN

PEACEMAKING CIRCLES.....

SO LET ME INTRODUCE SR. ROSE WHO WILL SPEAK ON WHAT THOSE WHO

ARE SUPPOSEDLY FOOLISH, AND WEAK, AND LOWLY AND DESPISED,

THOSE WHO ARE IN JAIL AND MAY COUNT FOR NOTHING IN OUR EYES

BUT HAVE SO WONDERFULLY SHARED THEIR WISDOM WITH OUR QAC

MEMBERS AND HELPED THEM TO LEARN IN A DEEPER WAY ABOUT THE

BEATITUDES....