

On the Road to Emmaus

May 21, 2010

Friends of Cleopas,

Bread for your Journey

Last Tuesday, I had the honor to represent our Lord and you at Town Council. Joe Procopio put me up to saying the pre-meeting prayer. I am going to share the prayer with you, which should give you something to think, talk, and pray about! Before the prayer, some thoughts on religion in public life.

As Christians, we believe our faith must be chosen, not forced; and the faith is not private, but universal. Theocracy just isn't a Christian approach to law and governance. But, this modern idea that public life should be void of religious viewpoints and practices is a kind of Secular-cracry: an anti-God, totalitarianism every bit as destructive to human dignity as theocracy. This, in my humble opinion, is what the First Amendment is about.

That sums up why we believe church and state should be separate. It also sums up the challenge of practicing this way of life in public without using the coercive power of the state to make others believe or live as we do. It's just not neat and tidy. The principle is easy to state, but working it out requires the virtue of prudence.

As participants in this democratic republic, we have a duty to uphold the American tradition of ordered liberty, including practicing our faith in public spaces without coercion. I am grateful to the elected officials of Castle Rock for keeping God in our public square, and for sending an important message to our community that government isn't, and shouldn't be everywhere or everything.

Lastly, for the sake of full disclosure, I've shamelessly borrowed a number of phrases from Alexis De Toqueville in the writing of this prayer, with some other hints of Scripture, Prayer Book, and Hymnody. I never had an original thought in my life.

O God above all nations, peoples, customs, and governments, under you and in your sight, we all are equal, and so we all are equal in the eyes of the true law. Thank you for the goodly heritage of liberty in this land. Give us grace to maintain our liberties through self-control and right law; may we always use these civil liberties with humble nobility, towards excellence in all that we do for ourselves and our families, completed with care for the common good.

Thank you for the strong local spirit in Castle Rock, for it is the sinew of our strength, the root of a durable prosperity. Thank you for Town-meetings which teach us how to use and how to enjoy liberty. These local institutions constitute the strength of free nations, and without them, our nation would lose the spirit of liberty. Bless this meeting of Town-

council with wisdom and courage, the knowledge when to act and when to refrain from action, and always for the common good.

I pray these things in the name of the one under whose name I am ordained, the servant king who gave his life and took it up again for the ultimate good and freedom of all people, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Fr. Theron Walker

Sunday Schedule

10:00 a.m.: Worship

11:15-11:30: Fellowship

11:30-12:30: Formation (see below)

Serving Sunday

Balloons: Tom he's not just full of hot air (helium too) and Erin Cook

Acolytes: Jake Ciafone, Nani Ciafone, Alana Brennan, Jacob Wolfe, and Cullen Walker, Virginia Holst, and their intrepid leader, Joe Procopio.

Prayer Team: Denise Walker

Chalice Minister: Ben Contreras

Childcare: Kris Kuchenbrod

Choir: Tom and Erin Cook, Becky Brennan, David and Nancy Newton, Janice Clements, Lisa Bender, Mary and Larry Renton, Theron and Denise Walker.

Announcements

Wednesday

Morning: 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion from 1928 Prayer Book. Formation/Bible Study is from 9:45-10:45.

Evening: 6:00 p.m. Light Supper (pot luck)

6:30-7:30 Parish Meeting

7:30-8:30 Interim Executive Council

Thursdays: Formation/Worship Night

6:00-6:30 Light Supper

6:30-7:30 Formation/ Bible study with Fr. Theron

7:30-8:00: Vespers Eucharist.

Community Service: The first Saturday of the month is Emmaus day at the Saint Francis Center. Contact Joe Clements if you are interested in serving.

Chairs? Our folding chairs are on loan from Tom Cook's Masonic lodge in Monument (thanks!). Looking at purchasing our own, we are considering chairs with kneelers. (Stand to praise, sit to listen, kneel to pray). We currently have two samples, and are getting at least one more. We will be asking your opinion on what is the best investment to serve our needs when we have at least three options. (Cost: \$69 [coming sample], \$100, \$140, up to \$180 [if next sample doesn't work] per chair).

The Men of Emmaus Studying Scripture (MESS) will kick off on June 12 at 7 AM until 9 AM in our own fellowship room. Breakfast will be provided by Procopio/Suro brothers. Just bring your Bible and be prepared to have good fellowship, some laughs, and some really good book learning. The first subject of study has yet to be chosen. Suggestions are welcomed. Future meetings will be the second Saturday of the month, same time and location. The first few months will be used to establish ourselves and gearing up for a big event on Saturday September 11 as part of the Emmaus grand opening that same month.

Formation/Bible Study for Pentecost and Following

Act 5: The Continuing Story of the Creator redeeming Creation: *A study of the Acts of the Apostles and the Continuing Life of God in the Church.*

Throughout the summer months we will focus our attention on the Acts of the Apostles, and God's continuing work of redeeming his good creation, through the Church, by the power of the Holy Spirit. There will be a historical piece including our creation of a timeline of events from Acts chapter 1, the promise of the Holy Spirit, to Acts 28, Saint Paul's imprisonment in Rome, and the promise of salvation to all nations. We will bring politics, customs of the times, religious worldviews, economics, architecture, art, into the discussion along the way. Each lesson will also contain a call to not just be a spectator in the story, but a player.

Format: Topics are introduced on Sundays during formation. Questions that arise that take us too far off track, or require extra time and research, will be covered in Bible Study on Wednesday morning or Thursday evening. We will also simply delve into greater detail in the weekday sessions. (The general topic is the same on the weekday, but the terrain varies depending on your questions).

Who is this Formation Class for? Adults and interested teens and pre-teens. You and they will learn a lot! And bring your Bible.