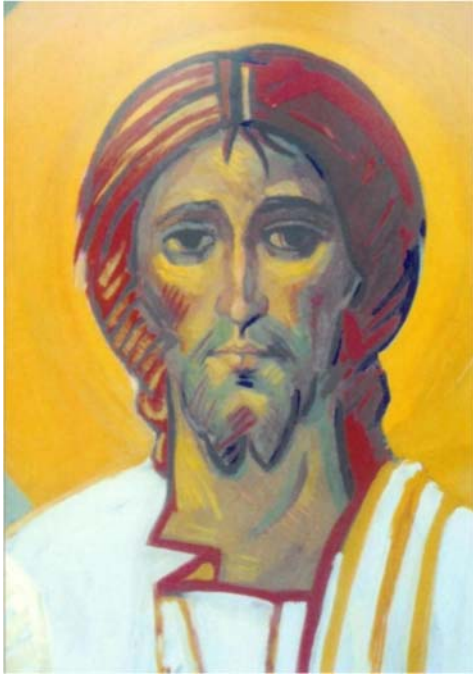


FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



The Church uses three kinds of oil in her Sacramental Ministry.

The Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of Chrism, and the Oil of the Sick.

The Oil of Chrism and the Oil of the Sick are commonly understood, since all of us were anointed with Chrism when we received Confirmation, and the Oil of the Sick is obviously used to anoint the infirm.

But did you know that you have been anointed with the Oil of Catechumens?

It happened on the day of your Baptism, accompanied by a prayer which asked to cast out the power of Satan, to rescue you from the kingdom of darkness, and bring you into the splendor of the kingdom of light.

You were thus anointed a 'Catechumen,' which comes from the Greek *katekeo*, meaning 'to resound.' Faith is meant to resound within the one

who is anointed and Baptized!

We received the seed of Faith in Baptism, and this Faith, St. Paul tells us, grows primarily through listening to the announcement of Salvation.

Our faith does not grow just because we come to Mass, no more than sitting in a garage will make us a car! We cannot get faith in college, or online, or in books or learning. The catechumen is the one who listens to the voice of the Father. Jesus Christ is the first catechumen, he listens to his Father. Many times, in early iconography, Christ is painted with one ear larger than the other. The artist did so on purpose, to signify that Christ listens to the Father.

God the Father speaks to us every moment of every day. But it is only the one who has an open ear who is able to listen to him, who is able to hear Him speaking, and is able to hear him say "I LOVE YOU"

There is a wonderful opportunity this Lent for us to listen to the announcement of Salvation, and to rediscover the immense love which God has for us exactly as we are. At the Masses this weekend I have invited members of a team of catechists from our parish to address some words of invitation to COME and LISTEN. We will meet Mondays and Thursdays at 8pm in the McCarthy Center, starting this week.

This invitation is for all, for those who come to Mass every week, or those who seldom come. For the young, the elderly, for those whose who have a spiritual life and for those who do not, it is for those who have no problems and for those who are really suffering. All are welcome. I sincerely hope that you will join me in this parish wide event this Lent.

Fr. Sean