

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified”.

A strange thing for Jesus to say when some Greeks asked to meet him. He is famous, even people from Greece have heard of him. They want to see him, get his autograph, and take photos with him. Jesus is having none of it. Instead he speaks about his approaching “hour” - referring to his approaching Passion and death. He throws a bucket of water on the parade.

Or does he?

The Belgian Jesuit Ignace de la Potterie wrote a book titled “The Hour of Jesus.” In it he shows how this ‘hour’ is treated very differently in the Gospel of John compared to the other three Gospels –the Synoptics.

The Synoptics portray Jesus’ approaching death as a dark, tragic event, as evidenced by the agony in the Garden, the kiss of Judas, the flight of the disciples, the mockery of the soldiers, the hitting on the head and the mention of darkness covering the land at the moment of Jesus’ death.

John recounts none of this. Not to say that these things did not happen, but his account leaves aside all that is humiliating, sad and tragic, rather emphasizing all that already allows the light of Easter to shine through and point to the Resurrection.

It’s amazing how the same event can be perceived, lived, and experienced in entirely different ways by different people. Some people have the weight of the world on their shoulders, while others seem not to have a care in the world. Some people relish the opportunity to tell you how awful things are; God forbid you ask them how they are doing, because you will need to brace yourself for a litany of complaints and woes. Others, who have every right to complain, never do so. In fact no matter how dire the situation, you always leave their presence edified; their very manner and conversation lifts you up. And its not fake. They have something which others do not.

As Jesus approaches his hour he doesn’t say “It’s not fair,” he does not ask “Why me?” Rather, he will give his life in order to find it. Today each one of us will be invited to assume the ‘hour of Jesus.’ We will be asked to give up our life, to lose our life in some small way, in order to find it. It is only in Christ Jesus that we can do this.

Will we see this as a reason to complain? Will it be dark, sad and tragic? Will others need to brace themselves for the Macbethian litany that will follow? Or will we see it as an experience, even now, that points towards the Resurrection and the light of Easter?

Fr. Sean