

Homily: The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 21st 2017

Theme: Suffering for Good.

INTRODUCTION

The word of St. Peter in today's second reading caught my eye. He says "If it be God's will that you suffer, it is better that you suffer for good deeds rather than evil ones" They are words full of practical advice should you find yourself in any of the following situations in your life.

CENTER Situation ONE(PREGNANCY)

A young unmarried girl comes to a pregnancy center .She has a difficult decision to make. She wants to know more about the baby. If she chooses to bring the baby to term then she will miss her prom and people will talk about her. If she chooses to eliminate the baby's life now, people will forget about her condition and her life will appear to go on as normal, but she knows that she will always remember the baby she had killed. That choice means immediate

suffering but knowing forever that the world is richer for a new life that for whom she is giving birth. The words of Peter today come to mind "it is better that you suffer for good deeds rather than for evil ones".

Situation Two (The Graduation Party)

It is graduation season. Their son asks for a graduation party with all the fixings. That means one with a keg and drinks. He says "the kids are going to drink anyway. At least they will be supervised here." They know he is right. They also know that if they don't give in, he'll make life difficult for them. However they know that they can't be responsible for what the other kids do outside their home but they are responsible for what happens inside their house. Maybe if they are alcohol free, the kids will drink after the party, maybe they won't. They know that they can't win, but they also know that if they stand up for what they know is right they can't lose." It is better you suffer for good deeds rather than for evil ones." St Peter says to all of us in today's second reading.

Situation Three: THE Job

She really needs a better job. She knows that a few words from her in the right place would jeopardize his position. He's married and has kids. She said if he were gone someone else would be moved up. Then she could see promotion in her future. All she would have to do is say that he has harassed her. Besides about a year and a half ago he asked her if she'd care to have a drink with him. She said she didn't like to mix work with her personal life and never brought it up again. He has always been professional with her and a gentleman. Still he has a bad reputation. Some say he's a low life always dating other girls. Now the company is investigating him and calling her in .She needs a promotion. But she also knows it would be a lie to claim harassment. True her chances of promotion are limited if he keeps his position but she decides to tell the truth. "If it be God's will that you suffer, it is better that you suffer for good deeds rather than for evil ones." St Peter tells us today.

SITUATION FOUR (RETIRED COUPLE.)

The retired couple want to get married. When their first spouses died years ago, neither thought they would ever marry again, but they met each other, grew comfortable in their relationship and decided they would like to marry. If they do marry they will lose some of their retirement benefits. If they just move in together they would keep these benefits. The only thing is that they would know this is wrong. What would they tell their children and grandchildren and even greater grandchildren ?How do they justify living as husband and wife and not being married after they have been the ones adamant that the faith be passed on to the children ,grandchildren and great grandchildren. It looks like they can't win. But they reason with the Lord we really can't lose. St Peter's words today come to mind "It is better to suffer for a good deed rather than for evil ones".

CONCLUSION

We have to make continual choices in our lives. Many times these choices seem to be a choice of which suffering we are

going to accept We may suffer if we choose what we know is the right thing to do. We may suffer if we choose what we know is not right. We are fooling ourselves if we think that we will not have to answer in this life and the next for choices we know are not the best .We are forgetting what Christianity is a mixture of joy and suffering for good on the cross. "It is God's will that we suffer , it is better that we suffer for good deeds rather than for evil ones" St Peter says to us today Amen