

TITLE : WORDS

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Feb. 9 2020

Introduction

The comedian, - John Kenny, - had a one man routine years ago playing a drunken fool,- at a family gathering. As the routine progressed,- Kenny's character became more inebriated,- and the other family members advised the fool,- to sit down and eat something.

The comedy,-- is in the fool's complete lack of self awareness, ... as to how offensive,... and loud... he has become,- until his sister says" what would mother say" ?...(PAUSE).

In an instant, ... Kenny's character goes,... from the jovial soul of the party,... to being emasculated...

He hisses through his clenched teeth with bitter resentment "that was a dirty dig ,- sister..."

MORAL

The power of how a single comment, can cut a person down was hardly ever demonstrated more !

Words can cut down a person,... but they can also build up.

" A Word - of- encouragement,"-- is a lovely phrase.

The idea that a few words can lift up another human being and literally put courage into them , - is wonderful.

The words of Jesus Christ were, words of encouragement, - to St Paul. Because of the words of Christ, -- Paul felt he could face anything.

Paul knew what it was to face situations, "with fear and trembling," (his words), but Christ and the spirit gave him courage .

The – word – of- encouragement's power is obvious to us, - when we see a young child, -- beam when they hear their parents cheering them on from the side-lines.

However, - as we get older, - we can forget, - how others, often beside us, sometimes living under the same roof, as me, need to hear my encouraging words Think about it! Sometimes I need encouragement myself!

Isiah says today "Clothe the person you see to be naked " .

There is no one among us more naked than the person who has been stripped of all encouragement. The Holy Spirit is the creative force and we all here have it .

CONCLUSION

We underestimate how powerful my words can be, - for good or wrong.

“Hang in there” or “Well done” can be all we need to shine like a lamp on a lamp stand. (Today’ Gospel)

AMEN.