

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 6, 2016

Salesian Perspective

We have just heard Jesus tell us a very familiar story – a story of arrogance, foolishness, loss, and humility; a story of love which forgives and celebrates; a story of anger, hurt pride and invitation to learn.

The father stands at the center of the story – a person filled with unconditional love. The father is willing to give all to his children. The younger son presumes on his father's generosity and then foolishly wastes what he's been given. His father is waiting patiently for him to come to his senses and runs out to embrace him when he returns. The father's all-embracing love is capable of accepting his son in all his foolishness and welcoming him home with a party.

The older son is angry at his brother's return and hurt that his father is so generous with someone so foolish. What he's seeing simply isn't fair. We're told that his father comes out of the party and we hear him invite his son to grow – to learn to see with his father's eyes, with the eyes of love.

It's probably easy for us to identify with the younger son. There have been times when we have arrogantly and foolishly chosen to have our own way and we've experienced our own disasters in the process. How generous our God has been with his forgiveness!

We might even find ourselves in the place of the older son. We try so hard to be faithful and watch as others live as they want. It's doesn't seem fair that forgiveness is so free. What about us who try so hard?

The point of Jesus' story is that we are invited to take the place of the father. We're invited to discipline ourselves to love unconditionally. We're invited to discipline ourselves to forgive unconditionally because that's what love does. We're invited to discipline ourselves not to make judgments about others. Love accepts each person where he or she is at the moment. We're invited to learn to trust that our efforts to love are pleasing to God. Our God is always loving us unconditionally, and everything God has is ours.

Jesus never tells us the ending of the story. Perhaps

that is our invitation. Are we willing to come in and join the celebration? Are we willing to discipline ourselves to love as our Father loves us?

Rev. Michael S. Murray, OSFS, is the Executive Director of the De Sales Spirituality Center

TAIZÉ LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE



AN ECUMENICAL AND CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP CONSISTING OF MEDITATIVE SINGING, LITURGICAL READING AND PERIODS OF SILENCE.

"NOTHING IS MORE CONDUCTIVE TO A COMMUNION WITH THE LIVING GOD THAN A MEDITATIVE COMMON PRAYER WITH, AS IT'S HIGH POINT, SINGING THAT NEVER ENDS AND THAT CONTINUES IN THE SILENCE OF ONE'S HEART WHEN ONE IS ALONE AGAIN"

Brother Roger of TAIZÉ

**JOIN US, FOR A PEACEFUL HOUR OF PRAYER,
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016 AT 7:00 PM**



Bilingual Stations of the Cross
VIA CRUCIS

Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30 pm.
Fr Fred will hold the **BI-LINGUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

~ COMMUNITY LENTEN DINNERS ~



Wednesday evenings everyone on Hatteras Island is invited to "OLS LENTEN SUPPER" We are serving soups & bread. **Starting at 6:00 pm thru 7:30 pm.** Come together as "one community" where

we can share our cultural soups & fellowship. **It is Open to ALL of our Hatteras Island Community & it's FREE-** Come join us. Interested in making one of your homemade soups, please contact: Claudia @ 252-995-6662 (English)

Our Stewardship Weekend 3/6/2016

	<u>Buxton</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>
Offertory	\$ 511.00	\$ 116.00	cancelled
Debt Reduction	\$ 650.00		
Attendance	116	23	
Principal Balance as of 1/30/2016 ~ \$217,040.50			



We need **volunteers for our Masses.** If you know you can help to assist at the Mass please step up. Thank you.

