NEW LIFE
32nd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME – 6 NOVEMBER 2022

New Life

Father Gerry Hefferan

James Tissot – The Pharisees Question Jesus

GOSPEL OF LUKE 20:27-38

In Luke's Gospel today, the Sadducees laid a trap for Jesus.
The Pharisees also believed in the resurrection.
We are not told if the Sadducees ever laid this trap for the Pharisees at other times.
But in this account, Jesus was the intended victim.

Let us read the first part from the Gospel.
> "Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection,
> came to him and asked him a question,
> 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies,
> leaving a wife but no children,
> the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.
> Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless;
> then the second and the third married her,
> and so in the same way all seven died childless.
> Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection,
> therefore, whose wife will the woman be?
> For the seven had married her.'

What are your immediate thoughts?
One for me is that the woman would be treated in a very sexist and unjust way.

Jesus didn't fall for the trap.
Instead, Jesus maintained his role as teacher,
as he revealed the message of a living God.
For God, all are, in fact, alive.

The Gospel continued.
"Jesus said to them,
> *'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage;*
> *but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age*
> *and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.*

Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels
and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.
And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed,
in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord
as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.
Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living;
for to him all of them are alive.' "

Let us repeat a key message for us.
"Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living;
for to him all of them are alive.' "

How can this message for new life change our lives?

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE OF PARTIES 27
With the forthcoming **COP27 (United Nations, Conference of Parties)** meeting on climate
action in mind, I chose an ABC News article 5 November 2022 titled
"In the Amazon, a giant fish is helping to save the rainforest."

It is a story of the sweet tasting pirarucu fish that can grow in weight up to 200 kilograms,
and had been *"designated as threatened with extinction"*.

This fish is found *"primarily in flood plain lakes across the Amazon basin,*
including in the region of Medio Jurua."

Illegal overfishing had almost caused its near extinction.
The story continues.
"Change began in the late 1990s. With the assistance of a Dutch Catholic priest, rubber
tappers organised and led a campaign to persuade the federal government to create the
Medio Jurua Extractive Reserve.
They proposed river communities could take from the forest and its lakes — up to a point —
and within protected areas."

The local Indigenous Peoples and settlers worked together.
- To overcome illegal fishing
- To set a legal quota on fish caught
- To organise an annual count of the fish

Managing and monitoring have been keys to the whole story.

The locally-made nets are different.
They need to be stronger, and with larger holes to allow fish under five feet to escape.

The fish numbers increased substantially, and now the practice is sustainable.
Extra fish that they don't consume, but still within the quota,
can be sold elsewhere, providing income to the communities and for sustainable projects.
Women and men receive equal pay.

Thanks to the ABC for this online story.

How do we open our hearts this week to the new life of Jesus around us?

How can we find new life in sustainable practices for the Earth, Our Common Home?

How does Jesus inspire us to make a difference?

Let us pray.

Father Gerry
Readings: https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/110622.cfm

Pirarucu