

## From the Desk Of Fr. John

Welcome to Fr. Peter...of the Missionaries of the Holy Family (MSF). The work of spreading the Gospel is a challenging one and takes commitment and conviction. Father comes to appeal

to all of us and invite us to help spread the Gospel. We do not have to travel to the faraway places that Fr. Peter tells us about...but we can support his and his communities' efforts through our prayer and financial gifts.

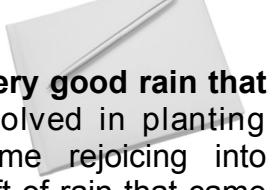
We are honored being able to assist this great work of the missions. Thank you Fr. Peter for coming and helping us to understand a bit better the work that you and your community are doing. Pray for us that we will have that same missionary spirit to be disciples...grow as disciples...and reach out and make disciples!

In our political world these days we hear about 'tribalism'...where people are divided by the political groups they associate with...to the exclusion of the 'other' groups. Instead of working together they seem to be working apart...for their own ideologies. How can we break down these barriers when ideas keep us from seeing the other's point of view?

**Last Sunday's Gospel helped us to see the personal family of Jesus** who thought he was out of his mind or 'mad.' They could not see the special divine relationship He had with God or the mission He had been given by the Lord. In addition, those of the religious leaders could not see or recognize Jesus' role or His mission. Both groups were locked into a mindset that could not accept the other side or the good that was a part of Jesus' mission. Jesus was simply ruled by Satan...Jesus was a pawn of the devil.

All the good that Jesus accomplished was rejected and denied. Jesus tries to explain His mission could not be from Satan...since He was taking people out of his power and control. Jesus was the one who bound Satan and raided his territory by reclaiming people for the Kingdom of God. God does not give up on us...but comes through His Son to rescue and restore us to friendship

and a share in His life. We are not hopeless cases! We are His dear children and He reclaims us and shares His life with us.



**Last weekend there was a very good rain that fell.** One of the families involved in planting and growing vegetables came rejoicing into church praising God for the gift of rain that came at just the right time for the crops to grow. When we hear the Gospel for this weekend we hear

about sowing the seed...but once it is sown it is truly a work of God that makes it grow and finally come to producing fruit...and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how.'

The other image Jesus used in this week's Gospel is the small mustard seed, which produces a large shrub in which the birds of the air make their nests. That small beginning ends up produc-

ing something great. For Jesus is trying to help His disciples to trust in His work and mission...which will be their future mission...of spreading the word of the Kingdom of God.

We are called to be active disciples. We are to grow as committed disciples. We are to continue to develop as a disciple to understand our mission and the work of sharing the Good News of the Gospel with others...wherever they may be...close or far. The task of us being so committed despite the difficulties and challenges is really important. We are to seek to grow deeper in love of Christ and the desire to share our faith with all others.

**Feast of the birth of St. John the Baptist** will be celebrated next Sunday. We can appreciate the fact of God's setting John apart to be the voice calling all to listen and be ready to welcome the Savior. We are alerted again how important that is even in our own time.

**The First Sunday of July...will be our celebration of the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul...our patron saints.** The Feast is June 28-29<sup>th</sup> (the readings p. 138-140) but is moved to Sunday for all of us to share in the celebration.