

A NEW OPPORTUNITY ON THE FEAST OF ST. ANNE

† Do you feel unsafe going into a church building?
You are not alone.

† Do you long to receive Eucharist, but are unsettled about coming to Mass at this time?
You are not alone.

On the Feast of St. Anne, Sunday, July 26, a special Mass will be celebrated in the church while you can listen outside from the safety and security of your own vehicle. We will transmit the Mass via radio and you will be able to tune in live from your car. What a gift!!!

- Mass is at 4:00 P.M. and the parking lot will open at 3:15 P.M.
- You will enter the main parking lot off of Lombardy Lane and proceed around the Joachim Center to be positioned in one of the parking spaces.
- We will let you know what station to tune into.
- At 4:00 P.M. we will begin Mass in the empty church.
- At the time for reception of communion a Reopening Team Member will come to the vehicles in the row and ask you to step out of your car with a mask on, and get ready to receive the Eucharist.
- The priest and deacon will come and bring the Lord Jesus to your vehicle.
- You will be asked to sanitize your hands before the priest or deacon arrives at your parking place.
- After you have received the Eucharist, you will then get back into your vehicle and wait.
- After everyone has received the Eucharist, I will head back into church and will continue with the Prayer after Communion, the Final Blessing and Dismissal.
- You will then be directed out of the parking lot row by row.

I know there is a need. I know we must respond to those who feel unsafe and who are not at peace with entering inside the church at this time. We long for you to come to the transmitted Mass that day.

These are exciting times,



Fr. John

THE INEFFICIENCY OF THE KINGDOM

The sower sows the good seed and some of it grows and produces an incredible yield. Some seed struggles with growth and other seed just become food for the birds. It is a fascinating parable with so many layers of insight about God. Yet sometimes we overlook the most obvious part of the parable, the sower. We get caught up in results. We are a result-focused society. We are all about efficiency. In the parable we begin with the beginning, there was a sower who went out to sow. There is freedom of this action. There is a throwing of seed that flies all over the place. It is not planted in rows. It is not just thrown in a single environment. The seed is thrown all over the place and it lands where it will. If we just take a moment to begin our reflection there, this tells us a lot about God. He is not about efficiency.

On my first trip to Africa, I had to confront my own ignorance of the power and priority we place on efficiency. When I was in Kenya, I went to a bank to exchange money. At the bank I encountered an experience to which I was not accustomed. I got there early in the morning. I was the first in line before the doors opened. I went to the foreign exchange line and waited. It seemed like a long time before the teller asked what I needed. I explained I wanted to cash some traveler's checks into the local currency. She asked for my passport and then had me sign a paper. She then took the checks and went to talk to her supervisor. Now in Kenya, like many African countries, conversation is a sign of respect. Looking at the clock and getting the transaction completed is not as important. So as the teller went to three desks and conversations ensued, I waited. Then the teller ran into someone else she knew. They talked. All the while I was not only staring at my passport, but at the clock. An hour later the transaction was complete and I went on my way. One hour later. I was impatient, confused as to what just happened and could not understand how anyone could run a bank like that.

When I arrived back at the rectory of the Maryknoll priests that I was staying within Nairobi, they explained how the conversations of the day are of importance. The connectedness of listening to the conversation is more important than time. I had so much to learn. Efficiency and success—so often the Kingdom of God we long to see is all about that. We sometimes look at the numbers, we do the October count in the diocese, we check to see how many hits the website gets or how many views the YouTube Mass has received. All of this is about our sense of efficiency to see how the Kingdom is doing.

The Kingdom is truly about the sower sowing the seed. Jesus was about love. He would spend time at a well, He would move from place to place and He picked Peter, who denied Him, to be the rock on which the Church was to be built. Mission trips remind me it is about the sower sowing the seed. It really has very little to do about us. If the Kingdom was about perfection, we would never have been invited. We are imperfect; we are flawed from the start. Some of the most touching joy I have witnessed has been on mission trips. On those trips I have visited places that appear to be broken and flawed, yet God reigns supreme. This week may we take the time to think about the sower, His passion and desire to sow the seed without worrying about perfection and efficiency. He is just about love.

The Kingdom is not about perfection—if it was, we would not be invited. It is about the preferential option for the poor.



Father John Ouper