

ROGATION 2008
SERMON - CHRIST CHURCH PARISH
FATHER JOHN ALTBERG
JAMES 1.22 JOHN 16.23



ASK FOR HELP...YOU CANNOT DO THIS ALL ON YOUR OWN. *YOU ARE GOING TO BE SENT IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS...I WILL NOT BE HERE TO GUIDE EACH OF YOUR STEPS, SAID JESUS...BUT YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE OR FORGOTTEN...WHAT YOU ASK OF MY FATHER IN MY NAME, HE WILL PROVIDE.* THIS WEEK WE TAKE THIS TO HEART...ASKING GOD FOR HELP...

Today is the last Sunday of the Easter Season, just before the Feast of the Ascension on Thursday. The Gospel is a set of final instructions Jesus left...he told his disciples, I am going away, but don't let that be a problem...you can ask my father. This is what I came here to do...to show you a way, to provide help because you cannot find everything on your own.

Consider today's Epistle...St. James provides profound counsel...Do not deceive yourself by only listening to what Jesus has to say; you must put it into practice. The person who doesn't take action on what Jesus said is analogous to looking in a mirror and then wondering a few minutes later who was there...

Thank about the important needs in your life and the life of the Church, the world and the community. Carefully consider the priorities and ask God for help. Too often we ignore the ultimate source of all help...that leads us to forget to ask.

A less academic analysis takes us back to the same problem that beset Jesus...people did not believe he was for real...that included lingering doubts defined amongst the disciples by today's Gospel

Jesus told to his followers...prior to this I have used figures of speech to explain to you who I am...you did not always comprehend. The day WILL come when the message will be very plainly presented ...you will get it then.

Place yourself in that discussion...eyes dart quickly side to side..."Now, Jesus, you are speaking plainly...you are not using figures of speech...we know you know everything...we believe you have come from God..."

This was a watershed moment of awareness for the disciples...they had, in 'modernspeak', connected the dots...

ROGATION is derived from the Latin, *rogare*...meaning, "ASK." It is often regarded as one of those "historic days"...once, but no longer relevant in this age of frozen, preserved or designer foods...just for farmers in earlier times.

While Rogation was originally and most commonly connected with agriculture...it's incorrect to conclude it is an exclusive connection!

It's time to dispose of that bias...it's TIME to ask broadly for help!

Rogation...asking...applies across a much-expanded spectrum. Consider carefully the priorities of **OUR** time and **ASK GOD** for help. Too often we ignore the ultimate source of all help...that leads us to decline to ask.

While we are not going on a march to the bounds of the parish this morning an immediately available and good place to start is paying close attention Prayer for the Whole State of Christ's Church...it's mini-rogation at every Mass covering comprehensive needs. Let us visit the far boundaries of our lives with concentrated thought about what we need ...asking God to help us.

Jesus left instructions...*I AM GOING TO GO AWAY SOON, BUT YOU ARE NEVER ALONE...YOU CANNOT DO THIS ALL ON YOUR OWN...ASK MY FATHER FOR HELP.*

