



CORONAVIRUS OR NO CORONAVIRUS, DON'T WASH YOUR HANDS: TURN YOUR ASHES INTO ACTIONS WEEK II

In last Sunday's *Message from the Pastor*, readers were invited to *come home* to Our Holy Redeemer and join the Reverend Monsignor John J. Strykowski from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn to Our Holy Redeemer for a series of Lenten meditations entitled: "Companions of Christ". Those meditations are being offered at both the 12:10 P.M. Mass and the 7:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross, and are taking us to Calvary (and beyond).

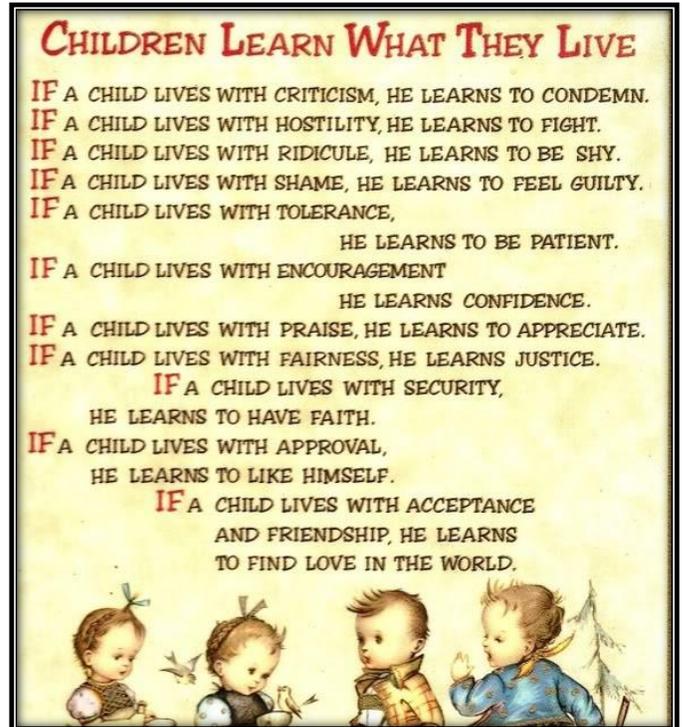
Before meeting the subjects of Monsignor's meditations - the Blessed Mother (Station IV), Saint Simon of Cyrene (Station V), Saint Veronica (Station VI), the Weeping Women of Jerusalem (Station VIII), or those "Standing by the Cross" (Station XII) – last Sunday's *Message from the Pastor* brought us (with Christ) before Pontius Pilate. There, like so many elected officials who could set the unborn child free from the womb, but instead condemn that child to death by supporting abortion; there, like so many of our brethren who choose to absence themselves from Sunday Mass, and consequentially deny food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, and clothing for the naked; there we stood face to face with all of the opportunities we've had in our lives to "do the right thing", only to recall how we (like Pontius Pilate): "washed our hands clean".

Pontius Pilate, as we stated in last Sunday's *Message from the Pastor*, "had the opportunity to set Christ free (to do the right thing), but he allowed his desire for power and a prominent earthly position (two of the three temptations that Satan tempted Christ with during His forty days of prayer and fasting in the desert) to get in the way of God's desire for his soul."

That desire for souls is why Christ encountered those companions on the way to Calvary, and gave each one of them (Pilate included) the opportunity to do the right thing. And, as unpopular as it was, and as dangerous as it was, without exception each one of them (Pilate excluded) did the right thing. Each one of them, in keeping with our 2020 Lenten Mantra: turned their **ashes into actions!**

This past Ash Wednesday, four teenage girls (amongst others) in Freeport had an opportunity to turn their **ashes into actions**; to do the right thing. And on Ash Wednesday, they all washed their hands clean of that responsibility.

This past week, the *First Week of Lent*, those same four teenage girls in Freeport had an opportunity to turn their **ashes into actions**; to do the right thing, and this time they took responsibility and got their hands dirty! They stood before the Priest who turned his **ashes into actions** on Ash Wednesday (doing only what he was (we all are) obliged to do (cf. Saint Luke XVII:10, cf. Saint John XIII:15)) and expressed to him heartfelt contrition for their failures. Those remembrance of those encounters will not only help to heal a Priest's aching body, but they will also, when the opportunity returns: send him to do the right thing all over again!



CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY LIVE

- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH CRITICISM, HE LEARNS TO CONDEMN.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH HOSTILITY, HE LEARNS TO FIGHT.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH RIDICULE, HE LEARNS TO BE SHY.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH SHAME, HE LEARNS TO FEEL GUILTY.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH TOLERANCE,
HE LEARNS TO BE PATIENT.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH ENCOURAGEMENT
HE LEARNS CONFIDENCE.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH PRAISE, HE LEARNS TO APPRECIATE.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH FAIRNESS, HE LEARNS JUSTICE.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH SECURITY,
HE LEARNS TO HAVE FAITH.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH APPROVAL,
HE LEARNS TO LIKE HIMSELF.
- IF A CHILD LIVES WITH ACCEPTANCE
AND FRIENDSHIP, HE LEARNS
TO FIND LOVE IN THE WORLD.

