3rd Advent, Year B

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

Psalm, Luke 1:46-54

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8,19-28

Blue Teams (3)

Who are you? You’re not the Christ. You’re not a prophet like Elijah. What do you have to say for yourself?

You say, “I am a Catholic and I belong to Blessed Mother Teresa Parish.” Can you go on to say, ‘’And I am part of a Blue Team.”

Right now some of you say that you are scared to join a Blue Team. You fear if you do, you are sucked in to do it all and spend a lot of time doing it. You say if you join up, will people like me? If you join a team, what if it doesn’t suit your fancy?

Some of your fellow parishioners probably had the same feeling when they signed up for a Blue Team. Then again, probably they responded to the urging of the Holy Spirit and felt like John the Baptist. He knew he wasn’t God but he *was* to bring glad tidings to people.

Some of you have noticed and responded to the little blurb in the bulletin by bringing in various things for the Response to Love Center. A parishioner writes about that Blue Team: The Response to love Center Ministry shows us how to be ever mindful of other’s needs. It is a ministry that we can all be a part of to make big differences in small ways. Every can of soup, every box of macaroni goes a long way in helping someone or a family in need. Through the generosity of this parish we have been able to do so for 11 years. Now the response to the Response to Love Blue team already has been a success. Another suggestion would be the Caring and Sharing Blue Team which is in need of help before Christmas, before Easter, and during the Summer to help local families in need.

What about the person who only uses his or her car to go to church on weekends? This person doesn’t get out much. Well the Legion of Mary Blue Team is for you. Sure for regular members it is a rigorous ministry who meet every week here on the campus. There are also auxiliary members who say the required prayers at home and are still members of the Blue Team.

Or maybe the Telephone Assurance Blue Team. If you have a telephone at home, you can call another person at home and just talk for a few minutes.

 You see it doesn’t take much to belong to a Blessed Mother Teresa Blue team and fulfill yourself as a parishioner participant.

There’s a Blue Team just for funerals. Listen to this response from one team: We feel this ministry allows us to be caring and supportive representatives for parishioners, their families and friends at a difficult time. With the Funeral Mass being the last major tribute to the departed, welcoming and showing support at the funeral Mass is part of our responsibility. We consider it an honor to serve at this special Mass and be representatives of the entire parish community. This ministry has allowed us to feel that we are closer to families suffering from a loss and to the parish community in general. There is flexibility in this ministry. With multiple Funeral ministers, you do not feel you have to be at every funeral. The rectory calls to see your availability for a particular funeral, and you are given the option to decline should you have a conflict in your schedule. P.S. the only frustration is getting the charcoal to light for the incense.

There is help for that.

These are a few sentiments offered by your fellow parishioners. I’m sure they felt hesitant to accept the call to join these Blue Teams. When they got their feet wet, they felt needed and useful and felt fulfilled as parishioners of Blessed Mother Teresa Parish.

As you have seen from the pamphlet you received at your home, there are many Blue Teams in your parish. Please reflect on them. Let the Spirit work. Say ‘yes’ to the call of the Spirit. Another option is to say ‘yes’ to helping out at the many events sponsored by your parish. For these events there are parishioners like you who just want to help out. If you are free to place an event on your calendar, just call the sponsoring ministry or just call the rectory and say you are available to help out at the Rummage sale, or the Pancake Breakfast, or the Meat Raffle. You’ll get a call back asking how you would like to help.

So what keeps you from belonging to a Blue Team?

 Rejoice with us here in your parish. Have fun with us here in your parish. Many hands make light work especially if you are doing the work of the Lord under the patronage of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.