

NO! IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE! BY WAY OF OUR WOUNDS, NOT IN SPITE OF THEM, HIS LOVE AT WORK IN US HEALS, STRENGTHENS, AND REINVIGORATES US! "SON (OR DAUGHTER), YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN!" GET UP AND KEEPONKEEPINON! "HIJO (O HIJA), TUS PECA-DOS TE SON PERDONADOS!" LEVANTATE Y ANDA! (FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL

The Gift of Wholeness

One of the great tragedies of our century is the number of innocent children maimed by war. We see gruesome pictures on television and in magazines of children whose limbs have been blown off by contact with land mines. Many of the medical agencies of the world have come to aid these children through doctors, nurses, and the gift of artificial limbs, which helps these children live normal lives. The greatest gift these children could receive would be to have their bodies made whole again.

Jesus, in his ministry, came to make people whole – both physically and spiritually. In our gospel today we see that Jesus does both for the paralyzed man. Jesus cures his ailment and forgives his sins. The man who was crippled spiritually and physically has received from Jesus renewed legs and a reborn soul. We should not be surprised. In the first reading from Isaiah, God tells us that new things are happening. Where there was once bareness and decay, there is now verdant pastures and fresh life. St. Paul continues in the second reading to tell us how God will never go back on the commitment to love us. God has made the promise to us. God has said "yes" to us. That is it! God will always be there for us.

It is now up to us to receive form God. First, we have to move toward God. We might be weak both physically and spiritually. We might have to crawl toward God. But once we come before God, God will make us whole again. Let this be our prayer today: "Lord, see me, hear me, and heal me! Make me whole once again. Amen!" Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12





El Regalo De La Entereza

Una de las tragedias más grandes de nuestro siglo es el numero de niños inocentes que han sido mutilados por las guerras. En la televisión y en las revistas vemos fotos horribles de niños cuyos brazos y piernas han sido destrozados por las minas terrestres. Muchos de los doctores y muchas de las enfermeras de las agencias medicas del mundo han ayudado a estos niños. También los niños han recibido piernas y brazos artificiales que los han ayudado a vivir vidas mas normales. Lo mejor que estos niños podrían recibir seria la restauración de sus cuerpos a la normalidad.

En su ministerio Jesús vino a darles la entereza física y la espiritual a todas las personas. En nuestro evangelio de hoy vemos que Jesús lo hizo así por el hombre paralítico. Jesús cura su enfermedad y perdona sus pecados. Jesús le dio la curación de las piernas y del alma al hombre que estaba paralizado espiritual y físicamente. Esto no debe sorprendernos. En la primera lectura de Isaías, Dios nos dice que están sucediendo cosas nuevas. Ahora hay campos verdes y nueva vida donde una vez solo existió la soledad y la aridez. San Pablo continúa en la segunda lectura y nos dice como Dios nunca va a anular el compromiso a amarnos. Dios nos ha prometido esto a nosotros. Dios nos ha dado el "si" a nosotros. ¡Esa es la cosa! Dios siempre esta con nosotros.

Ahora nos toca a nosotros recibir de Dios. Primero tenernos que ir hacia Dios. Puede que seamos debiles física y espiritualmente. Quiza hasta tengamos que arrastrarnos hacia Dios, pero una vez que lleguemos a su presencia, Dios nos hara sanos otra vez. Que esta sea nuestra oracion hoy: "¡Señor, mírame, escúchame y sáname! Dame la entereza otra vez. ¡Amen!"



...NEVER

GIVES UP!

(1 COR. 13:7A)

"I WOULDA DONE A LOT OF THINGS DIFFERENT!"

As the men in today's Gospel realized and we hope to realize better as we march into the holy, healthy season of Lent... Even if (or maybe ESPECIALLY if!) it's difficult, sometimes, you'd better just quit messing around and say something or do something!

In Today's Gospel, Christ is sought out and reaches out with the love that heals, energizes, invigorates and animals our hearts, souls and bodies. The friends and family of the paralyzed man are instruments, "carriers", messengers of that mysterious and powerful love. It puts us back on our feet! We bring each other to Him and bring Him to each other. Good food for thought, prayer, and **action** during our journey through Lent!

I AM SORRY	I MISS YOU
I AM WRONG	THANK YOU
I NEED YOU	I LOVE YOU

LOVE...

It's purely coincidental that some of the nicest phrases in the English language all have eight letters. They are short and easy to say but add a great deal of luster and graciousness to any relationship. Unfortunately, they often drop out of the vocabulary of teenagers and even adults because they are taken to be embarrassing signs of weakness. They are, however, the **strongest and most courageous** phrases that we can use.

Love implies, at times, wanting and being able to say you are sorry. It is the only phrase that can heal the pain of hurt feelings and effect genuine reconciliation. Summon the courage and enjoy the comfort of making peace first. Do not leave somebody you love

in pain. You might even need to say you were wrong. You will make your share of mistakes. Realize that deep respect is not reserved only for those who experience success but is shared as well by those who can admit mistakes.

Everyone needs someone to love him. It is not a sign of weakness to express that need and to tell a person that you miss them when you are separated. It is OK to be homesick. Love finds great satisfaction in being missed. Of course, "Thank You" adds a gourmet touch to any conversation. It adds a smile to verbal communication and can lift a parent's heart that is weary with work and worry. As Voltaire suggests: "Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well."

When you become accustomed to saying the first seven phrases graciously and genuinely, you will be well on your way to becoming a strong personality. Then, when you have the courage to say, "I Love You" to your parents and loved ones, it will have the ring of authenticity.

SINGLE YOUNG ADULTS The Diocese of Brownsville Family Life Office is sponsoring P.I.C.K., a partner Program "Pre-Marital Interpersonal Choices and Knowledge" Based on Jan Van Epps <u>How to Avoid Marrying or Dating a Jerk/ette</u>. A five week program held weekly Monday evenings at UTPA (Catholic Ministry Center) 1615 W. Kuhn St. Edinburg, Texas. For registration, call the Family Life Office, 784-5012 or 542-2501, ext. 412.

Bishops Renew Call to Legislative Action on Religious Liberty: The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a statement renewing their call to legislative action on religious liberty. To read the statement visit www.cdob.org.

<u>Defend Religious Liberty Today!</u> The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services recently announced that religious employers will be required to provide health care plans that include coverage of sterilization, contraceptives, and abortifacients. Catholic schools, hospitals, and charities <u>ARE NOT EXEMPT</u> from this mandate. This violation of religious liberty is unconscionable and unnecessary. Urge your U.S. Representative to protect religious liberty by co-sponsoring the <u>RESPECT FOR RIGHTS OF</u> <u>CONSCIENCE ACT</u>. To contact your representative to urge that he/she opposes this mandate, visit the Texas Catholic Conference web site at www.txcatholic.org/HHSmandate.asp or call the Texas Catholic conference at (512) 339-9882. Also, please see Action Alert online at www.cdob.org.

If you're looking for a Mass with a little more room, try the 5:30 P.M. mass on Saturdays. We'll be having that Mass all of February and March, and up to the eve of Palm Sunday, March. 31st. April Fool's Day is the BIG Palm Sunday march to La Lomita! It'll be a beautiful day in the neighborhood!

According to our noble Catholic tradition, we fast and abstain during Lent in general, we observe the tradition of abstaining from red meat at least on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent, and for sure those from 21-60 years of age fast (eat a lot less!) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The obligation to abstain from meat applies to everyone 14 years old and up. It's a fine old tradition. With God's help, you need to figure out how you can apply and keep it best for yourself and your household. Work something out for your own good and the healthier you are, the better it will be for the rest of us.



Diocese of Brownsville Game Night with the Vipers basketball team at the State Farm Arena in Hidalgo on Monday, March 12th. The pre-game tailgate begins at 5 P.M. and the game starts at 7 P.M.. Bishop Daniel will speak at the game's half time. <u>Get your tickets here</u>! Half of the money goes to the Parish!

Next weekend (Friday & Saturday & Monday, Feb. 24th, 25th & 27th), we'll be offering the good, healthy (and not very expensive!) service of the STROKE SCAN at the parish hall. It's a good deal! You can sign up by calling 866-935-7226. You'll be glad you did!

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND! Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the 2012 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The sick and the aged, the needy & youth—they all depend on our generosity.

There's an opening for the position of principal for Immaculate Conception School in Rio Grande City. Call 784-5051 for more info.

You can pick up your Sunday envelopes at the back of the church. Please write your correct address and phone number on your envelopes so we can check and update our computer list. If you haven't used envelopes and would like to, that would tickle us plumb to death! You can get a box and register at the parish office, open seven days a week: Monday-Friday, 9:30 A.M.-6 P.M., Saturday, 9:00 A.M.-7 P.M. & Sun 8:30 A.M.-2 P.M. The coffee is always on!

We're on the pull tab drive again. Bring 'em in anytime! Thanks!

Fr. Phil is looking for a good deal on a used washing machine.

<u>How 'bout this?</u> Our good neighbors at La Parilla Restaurant, right across Magna Street from our Conway parking lot on the South side, offer delicious, nutritious meals, and on Sunday will donate to us 20% of the income from people who dine there from O.L.G.. So, you could go have a fine dining experience at La Parilla and be making a donation to our sweet, old Parish at the same time! <u>How 'bout that?</u>

JUAN DIEGO ACADEMY Regional Catholic High School is registering for 9th & 10th grades. *Tuition Scholarships Available* Call 589-2752 or visit juandiegoacademy.org.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: \$14,653.69

We will tenderly and lovingly remember all our sick friends and parishioners at all our masses this weekend. Also please remember in your prayers, <u>+Irene Peña, +Yadira</u> <u>Peña, +Maria Andrea Hernandez & +Jim Spann</u> who died last week, and their families in their great sorrow. Que brille para ellos la luz perpetua.

Thanks, Lord, for the friends and family who "bring me to You" and You to me when I'm weak, unenthused and even paralyzed. Your Spirit, through and with and in my family and the family of the Church touches, heals and invigorates me even in, especially in, my greatest weakness, pain, and heartaches. Thanks for teaching me to believe in the impossible!

You can see in today's sweet, scary, terrible, wonderful Gospel how God never does give up on us, and He inspires and calls us never to give up on ourselves or each other or Him! "The Impossible, by Joe Nichols"

My dad chased monsters from the dark He checked underneath my bed He could lift me with one arm Way up over top his head He could loosen rusty bolts With a quick turn of his wrench He pulled splinters from his hand Never even flinched In thirteen years I'd never seen him cry But the day that grandpa died, I realized

Unsinkable ships, sink Unbreakable walls, break Sometimes the things you think would never happen Happens just like that Unbendable steel, bends If the fury of the wind is unstoppable I've learned to never underestimate The impossible

And then there was my junior year Billy had a brand new car It was late, the road was wet I guess the curves was just too sharp I walked away without a scratch They brought the helicopter in And Billy couldn't feel his legs Said he'd never walk again But Billy said he would and his mom and daddy prayed And the day we graduated, he stood up to say:

Unsinkable ships, sink Unbreakable walls, break Sometimes the things you think would never happen Happens just like that Unbendable steel, bends If the fury of the wind is unstoppable I've learned to never underestimate The impossible

So don't tell me that it's over

Don't give up on you and me 'Cos there's no such thing as hopeless If you believe:

Unsinkable ships, sink Unbreakable walls, break Sometimes the things you think would never happen Happens just like that Unbendable steel, bends If the fury of the wind is unstoppable I've learned to never underestimate The impossible