

**Homily on 'Elijah Slit their Throats...
MOUNT CARMEL'
1 Kings 18: 20-40**

"HOW LONG WILL YOU GO LIMPING WITH TWO DIFFERENT OPINIONS?
IF THE LORD IS GOD, FOLLOW HIM; BUT IF BAAL, THEN FOLLOW HIM!"

In the office of readings a few days ago was the description of Ezekiel's vision - I've been ordained 4 years - in the seminary for 10 years: MEANING, for 14 years, I've ran across that reading once a year... but this time, something happened!! I saw HIM for the first time... I got it for the first TIME...

Let me set the stage for you: before seeing HIM, Ezekiel perceived an immense FIRE burning in front of his eyes and within it, he saw 4 living CREATURES... " Gleaming like electrum - they had human form, but each with four faces and four wings. Their Face were like this: each had the face of a man, the face of a lion, the face of an ox and the face of an eagle.

The Gospel of Matthew - the Face of a MAN
The Gospel of Mark - The Face of a LION
The Gospel of Luke - The Face of an OX
The Gospel of John -The Face of an EAGLE

Just like it was through the four living creatures, which represent the FOUR GOSPELS, that Ezekiel came to encounter the GLORY OF THE Son of Man, WE ENCOUNTER that SAME Son of Man THROUGH those GOSPELS - but I'll tell you what... here we are... 1/2 way round the world, right next to the very soil where He walked, where He Healed, where He revealed HIS GLORY!!!

Who Ezekiel saw is "He who IS..." But first, he had to see the creatures - gotta get to know the 4 GOSPELS!!!! For its trough them that we obtain ACCESS to He whom Ezekiel perceived existing above the firmament of the 4 LIVING CREATURES!!! He who looked like SAPPHIRE - seated on a throne in the appearance of a man... He whose waist itself emanated ELECTRUM which turned into FIRE - which in turn - illuminated Him from all sides!!!!

BEHOLD..... The Fathomless GLORY of the LORD prior to His coming among us in all humility... Can you see it?? Can you feel it?? Since this past Sunday, every Mass I've celebrated - during consecration those brief, blessed moments of consecration - I SEE HIM!! I see Him in all HIS GLORY EMANATING FIRE AND SAPPHIRE - and yet, at one and the same time, I see Him suddenly being fully stripped and emptied of his dignity and cast into the depths of the Blazing Furnace of HUMILITY...

I mean, He had nowhere to lay his head, he was forsaken, and in the end: betrayed by one of his closest friends....

We've come here on pilgrimage for he HUNG FROM THAT CROSS - nailed there for our SINS!! for our sins...

AND YET, that's not the end of the story is it???

As we walk, pray, meditate, contemplate that which took place on this SACRED SOIL some 2000 years ago over the course of the next week and a half - call to mind each day how the LORD of GLORY emptied himself of that which we cannot even FATHOM to become one of us!! Emptied himself of Glory to become the atoning sacrifice for our SINS!!!

Knowing what we know, we exist on a whole other level than did the prophet Elijah!! At least back then, the people had no idea of the Saviours' existence - they followed Baal for it was simply one other option among the many!!

We know better! Are we TRULY following Him at this time wholeheartedly?? or are we following something else over Him- For where your treasure is, there is your heart...

We have seen the after effects of the Savior's coming into the world! We live in the year 2013 following His birth. As believers, we have a moral, divine, human, imperative on our hands!!

The words of Elijah are just as prevalent now as they were back then - for truly - in some form or other, we all worship idols of some sort in life: For some it might be Hunting, for others it's their Blackberry's!!

"HOW LONG WILL YOU GO LIMPING WITH TWO DIFFERENT OPINIONS? IF JESUS CHRIST IS GOD, FOLLOW HIM; BUT IF you figure someone or something else is, THEN FOLLOW that!"

As the prophet Elijah put across to the people of his time - now The Lord desires to put it across to the people of our time... The day is coming and now is when the sword, the axe, and the chainsaw, is coming down to overcome the noises of this world clamouring for our attention in our hearts - and on that day, HIS desire will be like that of Elijah: "To let none of them escape on the Day of His Great Return! On that day, He will have all those on the left of Him brought down to the Cichon valley where once again - 'throats of all the false prophets that exist in people's lives will be slit!!

The time had come...PUT TO DEATH within us whatever is earthly so that what is heavenly can begin to RISE WITHIN!! And while for the most part, we can take our time with this process - Our Lord's preferential desire is that this movement would unfold upon us quickly and efficiently!

That's why every time the HOLY SACRIFICE of the Mass is celebrated, the event itself could be likened to a Texas Chainsaw Massacre ripping through the Heavens. Through the witness of faithful priests, Chainsaws of TRUTH cut and TEAR across all the false God's and lies which bear hold on our hearts.

For in the Eucharist we are about to consume: TRUTH!!! rips into this world every time the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated! What we are doing NOW... What we are about to consume NOW... is the hidden, humble, sacrificed presence of the GLORIFIED LORD out from whom emanates ELECTRUM and FIRE!

AND THATS VERY EXCITING!!!!

SWITCHING GEARS A BIT:

WHEN JOHN was told by Jesus: "Son, behold your mother!" Today's Gospel reminds us how he immediately took her into his home. " Mary is with us today as we begin taking our 'first baby steps' along the pathways trod by her Son.

We are all going to be experiencing the ***presence of the Holy Spirit in various ways over the course of the days that are to unfold. Seize THOSE MOMENTS!*** Follow the example of Our Lady when they come and '**ponder them in your hearts!**'

And if that's still feeling like 'not very clear for anyone', then I invite you to take up her prophetic words - words being poured out of a Mother's care for your Eternal Welfare:

"DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU!!!

And while doing whatever HE TELLS US IS A good thing - were going to balance that our today by looking at something Our Lady tells us to do!!! For to ignore where we are along with the Heavenly promises bestowed on those who take the following to heart!!

IT came to pass when the Blessed Virgin Mary to Saint Dominic: "One Day through the Rosary and Scapular I will save the World"

Now listen to Mary's Promise made on **July 16, 1261 to Saint Simon Stock:**

"Whosoever dies clothed in this (scapular) shall not suffer eternal fire."

The devils revealed to **Francis of Yepes, the brother of St. John of the Cross**, that three things especially tormented them. The first is the Name of Jesus; the second, the Name of Mary, and the third, the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. **"Take off that habit," they cried to him, "which snatches so many souls from us. All those clothed in it die piously and escape us."**

Your SCAPULAR, then should take on deep meaning for you. It is a rich present brought down from Heaven by OUR LADY HERSELF:

"Wear it devoutly and perseveringly," she says to each soul, "it is my garment. To be clothed in it means you are continually thinking of me, and I in turn, am always thinking of you and helping you to secure eternal life."

Blessing and Investiture of the Brown Scapular

Priest - Show us, O Lord, Thy mercy.

Respondent - And grant us Thy salvation.

P - Lord, hear my prayer.

R - And let my cry come unto Thee.

P - The Lord be with you.

R - And with your Spirit.

P - Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, sanctify + by Thy power these scapulars, which for love of Thee and for love of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Thy servants will wear devoutly, so that through the intercession of the same Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and protected against the evil spirit, they persevere until death in Thy grace. Thou who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

THE PRIEST SPRINKLES WITH HOLY WATER THE SCAPULAR AND THE PERSON(S) BEING ENROLLED. HE THEN INVESTS HIM (THEM), SAYING:

P - Receive this blessed scapular and beseech the Blessed Virgin that through Her

merits, you may wear it without stain. May it defend you against all adversity and accompany you to eternal life. Amen.

AFTER INVESTITURE THE PRIEST CONTINUES WITH THE PRAYERS:

P - I, by the power vested in me, admit you to participate in all the spiritual benefits obtained through the mercy of Jesus Christ by the Religious Order of Mount Carmel. In the name of the Father + and of the Son + and of the Holy Ghost. + Amen.

May God Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and earth, bless + you, He who has deigned to join you to the Confraternity of the Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel; we beseech Her to crush the head of the ancient serpent so that you may enter into possession of your eternal heritage through Christ our Lord.

R - Amen.

THE PRIEST THEN SPRINKLES AGAIN WITH HOLY WATER THE PERSON(S)
ENROLLED.