

HOMILY 5th SUN EASTER YRC 2019

What is your deepest desire? There was a young man who said his deepest desire was to be an accomplished pianist. He had been studying for years and his teacher repeatedly told him that if he wants to be really good he must spend more time practicing. And he just was not doing it. And he found out that there was a famous piano teacher moving into the area and she was taking some new students, but new students had to audition for her first and she would pick the students that she wanted to teach. He decided not to audition because he was afraid he would not get picked. Now he said that his deepest desire was to become an accomplished pianist; however what he really wanted was to have more leisure time and to avoid rejection. That is what is controlling his behavior. What is his deepest desire?

We heard in the second reading: “Behold, I make all things new.” We all want to be a new creation right? That is what the spiritual journey is all about. God created the universe and we need to work with God to make all things new, to become a new creation. God is not going to step into your life and magically make everything new, because if we want to be a new creation we have to change. That is how God works in the world. But he does provide us with everything we need to become a new creation. God sees us differently than we see ourselves. God sees who we are today, our strengths and our weaknesses, our sins and our virtues and he loves us the way we are today. He also sees what we have the potential to become and loves us. So what should we do to work with God to make all things new? Jesus tells us in the Gospel reading today: “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another.”

“Love one another.” That should be our deepest desire. That should be the driving force in our lives. And that is a very general desire and will play out in many different ways in each of

our lives. We all must identify our deepest desires. It is a choice. Some of our desires are conscious and some of them are unconscious. The young man I told you about earlier probably has the conscious desire to be an accomplished pianist. His unconscious desires are to have more leisure time and to avoid rejection. He would probably not identify those if you asked him, but they are controlling his life. I think we need to be more aware of our unconscious desires and make a choice not to let them control your behavior.

Let me give you a few examples. My conscious desire may be to overcome an addiction so that I can be a more loving father or wife or parent or better performing my ministry but I am not willing to ask for help. The unconscious desire is to be independent and self sufficient and that is what is controlling behavior. My conscious desire may be to have a close loving relationship with my family, but my sister-in-law just always finds a way to step on my last nerve. I am not speaking to her or I am fighting with her. It is creating conflicts with my family and I just cannot let it go. My unconscious desire is to change my sister-in-law's behavior. Well first of all your sister-in-law is not going to change unless she wants to and that is unlikely to happen. It will sabotage your conscious desire. My conscious desire is to get closer to Jesus by coming regularly to Mass and getting more involved at St. Edith. However I like to sleep late on Sunday and I am too busy with work to get more involved at St. Edith. My unconscious desire is to sleep late on Sunday and spend more time at work. My unconscious desires can undermine my conscious desires if I allow that to happen. We need to be more conscious of our unconscious desires.

God can make all things new in our lives but we have to work with him. And when we identify our deepest desires we must make sure we remember the new commandment that Jesus gave us. "Love one another." It is all about the love.