

Celebrating Jubilee

Below are excerpts from the homily of Bishop Thomas Zinkula of Davenport at the Jubilee Mass July 21, 2018

“When you put a frame around a picture you intensify it. The frame makes the picture stand out. It highlights the picture’s beauty.

“I would like to use some of the themes from the Scripture readings we just heard to frame this Jubilee celebration in order to highlight the beauty of the commitment and dedication of these religious women so that their 60 and 70 years of religious life stand out.

With what shall I come before the Lord...to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. - Michah 6:6,8

“Clearly the main theme of the readings is love. It’s all over the readings, in all three of the scripture readings the word is there six times. For example, love goodness. Over all these other wonderful attributes, put on love. ‘Love one another as I love you’...Love was the reason the Jubilarians entered the Clinton Franciscans and made their final vows. Love of God and love of your religious Sisters and love of your order’s mission. Let’s take a look at those respective of the readings.

“The first is mission...you are called to contemplation and to conversion and are sent as instruments of God’s peace. You promote active nonviolence and peacemaking, seek justice for those marginalized, and care for all creation. We hear in the Scripture readings to do justice, to be peaceful, and to be peacemakers. That’s who you are and that’s what you do.

“The second thing is there is a love of your religious sisters, ‘love one another.’ That’s a big piece of who you are as Clinton Franciscans...There are a lot of words in the Scripture readings that relate to this topic: love of one another, love those in a community of one sort or another, and the traits that we need for that to work, such as compassion, kindness, gentleness. Also some harder things and maybe more important things such as patience, and finally, forgiveness. We’re going to hurt each other along the way as we all know. Forgiveness is at the center of all that. Community life, family life is really tough. It takes a lot of work. So obviously it needs to be centered on unconditional and sacrificial love. That’s the love that Jesus taught and lived.

“Finally, is the love of God. You gave your life to the Church, and your life to God. There’s a word in the readings: humility. That really fits here.

One time indirectly, that’s to bow before God, be humble when you do that. We’re to walk humbly with God and to be humble, living our lives. True humility is not thinking less of yourself...”

Photos clockwise: Sister Rosalie Noder peruses the article in the Henry News Republican regarding her 70 years of religious life, Sister Judith McKenna welcomes a relative to the Jubilee Mass, Sister Dorothy Stolmeier poses with family, and Sister Paschal Hocum is with Bishop Zinkula.



Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection...giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:12-17



This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends...whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. - John 15:12-16

