

February 4, 2018

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

“Clarity”

First Reading ~ *Mark 1:29-39*

Directly on leaving the Synagogue in Capernaum, they went to Simon and Andrew's house, accompanied by James and John. Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up preparing a meal and caring for them.

That evening, after the sun was down and the Sabbath had ended, they brought all who were sick and evil-afflicted to him in a steady stream, until the whole city had gathered at the door! He healed many who were suffering from various diseases, and cast out many demons; he did not allow the demons to speak because they knew him.

Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up and went out to a lonely place in the desert, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him, looking everywhere, searching for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is looking for you!” Jesus answered, “Let us go on to the rest of the villages so I may proclaim the message there also. That is why I came.” So he went throughout Galilee, preaching the Good News in synagogues, and casting out demons.

Second Reading ~ *from Scott Russell Sanders*

When the pain of leaving behind what we know outweighs the pain of embracing it, or when the power we face is overwhelming and neither fight nor flight will save us, there may be salvation in sitting still. And if salvation is impossible, then at least before perishing we may gain a clearer vision of where we are. By sitting still I do not mean the paralysis of dread, like that of a rabbit frozen beneath the dive of a hawk. I mean something like reverence, a respectful waiting, a deep attentiveness to forces much greater than our own.