

Ordinary 22B – Andros Farewell Homily

At most sandwich shops now the person behind the counter making sandwiches wears disposable gloves like these. When I see that I think to myself, "That's good. I'm glad he isn't making my sandwich using his dirty hands." After a while, I began to wonder, "Are those gloves any cleaner than his hands would be?"

People today are very concerned about having clean hands. Before cookies at CCD we use a bottle of hand sanitizer. After all, as my mother used to say, "Cleanliness is next to godliness." Or is it?

One day, a group of Pharisees came to Jesus. "We have noticed that some of your disciples are eating without washing their hands" they told Jesus. "Why don't they follow our tradition of washing their hands before they eat?"

"You bunch of phonies!" Jesus answered. "It's not what's on the outside that's important, but what is within".

Over the last few weeks many have said "You did so much" "You made such a difference"

- As I look back over the past 7 years I see the renovations at St. John's
New Tile New Windows Masonry Work Upcoming Paint
- I see the same at Christ the King
New Tile New Paint Job Soon New Windows
- We've restored St. Gabriel's in Calabash We've restored bakery at St. Mary's
- We've built new church in Mastic Point

But these are all the externals – like rubber gloves

The M.P. church is not the building – it's Joan Edgcombe's family, it's Sharee Wallace's family
It's Barry Hall, Colleen Colebrook, Haitian friends, others

Over the last 7 years:

45 babies were baptized 33 children received First Communion (and 1st Penance)

23 teens were confirmed 14 adults became Catholics

12 of our members were laid to rest

We pray that these sacraments – these "Sacred Moments" in your lives make an internal difference

With that said, Ginni and I have had some "sacramental moments" as we've served you

- WHAT'S POVERTY
- FISHING WITH JIM – the girl scaling our bait
 - Giving we receive

Many, many other stories of our time on Andros – but the truth is WE COULD DO NOTHING WITHOUT H.S.

We pray that the same Holy Spirit that filled Apostles on Pentecost continue to fill Andros

We know that same HS will be working with and guiding Deacon Harold

Wait for it – because its coming – if the HS can accomplish what he did through foreigners like us

IMAGINE what he can do with a Bahamian Deacon

Friday night AUTECH had a farewell party – Ginni encouraged the people to pray - & think big!

God wants to bless you God wants the church of Andros to grow and flourish

Why settle for 14 people converting to Catholicism over 7 years?

Why settle for churches that are only half-full on Sunday?

You are a special people – God loves you – God wants to bless you

Believe it

Don't settle for new and restored church buildings

Ask for new and restored hearts – and your heavenly Father, who loves you, will give you what you need.