

Seventh Sunday of Easter

- Elderly man weeping in front of Washington's Vietnam Veteran's Memorial
 - Moved by the sight, a young man "One of yours sir?"
 - The old man looked up, "They all are."
 - This same spirit is what moved Jesus to pray in today's Gospel
 - NOT FOR HIS DISCIPLES ALONE – but for all believers

Jesus says "I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word" JESUS PRAYS FOR US

That we might be one - as he and his Father are one. (that close!)

On Tuesday RCAB Announcement of parish closings will be released.

There will be pain and broken-hearts

JESUS PRAYS THAT WE MIGHT BE ONE

We may be called upon to be a welcoming parish

We may be called upon to be a means of healing

We could even get a surprise

JESUS PRAYS THAT WE MIGHT BE ONE

As Church, we have borne the pain of the abuse scandal &

As Church, we will go through pain of parish closings

- Our faith is NOT based on Church buildings

- Our faith is NOT rooted in brick and mortar

JESUS PRAYS THAT WE MIGHT BE ONE – Our faith is in Jesus!

Merlin Caruthers – Praise God for problems

How is God going to be glorified in this? – Caruthers

"All things work for the good for those that love God"

How can we use consolidation of parishes to give God glory?

JESUS PRAYS THAT WE MIGHT BE ONE

- Think of Steven (Deacon) as the stones fell

"filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen looked up to heaven

and saw ---what--- THE GLORY OF GOD"

- In midst of the trial ask - How will God be glorified in this?

- We have an opportunity to be light in the midst of darkness

- We have an opportunity to bring the fruit of the Holy Spirit into this situation:
LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS,
GENTLENESS & SELF-CONTROL

Listen to those gifts – in light of the pain some will be experiencing

JESUS PRAYS THAT WE BE ONE & He gives us the gifts to make that possible