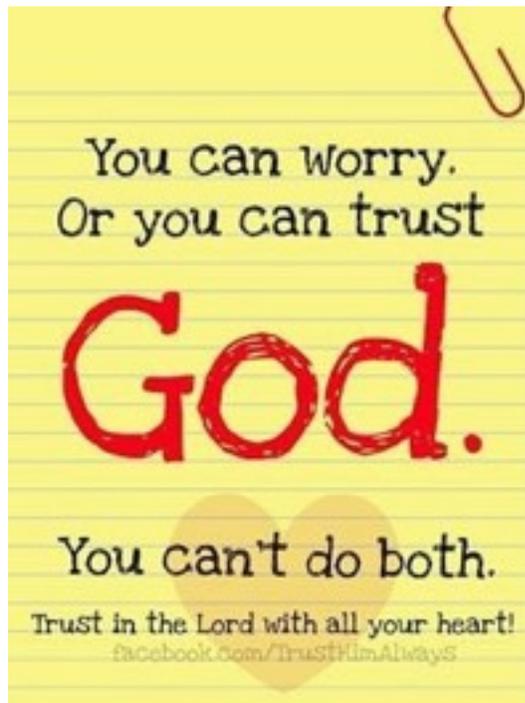


FATHER ANTON'S WORD'S OF WISDOM: Turning on the television and listening to



the news, or opening any of the local papers... surfing the internet; it's easy to become discouraged with what is happening in the world. While it is important to be informed as to what is going on, it is also important not to try and carry all the world's problems on our shoulders. I hear too often from people how terrible the world is, and in the many comments and narratives there doesn't seem to be a lot of hope. All this negativity stirs up fear, which eventually can turn into hatred, prejudice, judgement of others, and despair. We need to look at our world and our lives through God's eyes and with His heart... it can give us a much better perspective.

With the many events that have happened and are happening, we have seen the goodness of humanity coming together to help one another. With the fires in Fort MacMurray, and in Northern BC we have witnessed what happens when people set aside their differences and come together for the common good.

The light of Christ is lighter than any darkness, His love more powerful than any hate. We need to remember that we have received this light and love as pure gift, and that the world can change one heart at a time when we become "Christ", when others can recognize His compassion, and goodness in us. There is no room for negativity, for we are an Easter people, living, and dying always that we can rise a new creation.

Over my 31 years as a Pastor I have experienced Christ most powerfully in others, when they allow Him to use them as vessels of His love and compassion. Our challenge as Christians is to take seriously our call to become disciples, to pray that Jesus use our feet to bring Him to others, that He use our heart to allow others to experience His love and mercy, that He use our hands to minister where it is needed, that He use our eyes to look out on the world with compassion, that He use our ears to hear the sighs and cries of those who are lost and confused, that He use our mouths to bring words of comfort to others.

Yes, life when lived through the eyes of faith is a beautiful thing. We are called to live lives of holiness, not in judgement of others or in despair, but rather to recognize that our role is to be the peacemakers of the world, and not to use words to sow fear, or hatred, or prejudice. My grandmother used to say "Let God do His work, and you do yours, and things will always turn out okay." She was a wise lady indeed.

As we look forward to the summer months, let's look more at the beauty that surrounds us, and understand that this beauty is God creating and re-creating, it is divine life surrounding us... all we need do is recognize it and embrace it.

Let us pray: Send forth Your Spirit, Lord. Fill us with the fire of Your love. You shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.