

Homily Summary from Totino-Grace All-School Mass

October 2, 2015

In an effort to clarify any miscommunication, I would like to give you a summary of my homily today. I wish I would have had it recorded so that you could see it in its fullness. I preached without notes, as is my style as I am able to engage the audience better, especially youth, so it was a bit different than the following but it gives you an idea of what I tried to say.

On my second day here at TG, I was able to attend the football game against Osseo. It was a beautiful night for football and a great game. Coach Ferguson's words for his team that night were, "All-out effort." He wanted them to give it all, to lay it all out there. They do that because they care about each other and want to sacrifice for each other. I want to take that as my motto here at TG. I am going to give you an all-out effort; I want to give everything for you, because I care about you and want to get you to heaven. I want to help you become saints. You need to inspire me be a holy priest and help me get to heaven. We will help each other.

The feast of the guardian angels today reminds us that God desires to protect us, both physically and spiritually. He loves us and wants to keep us safe. However, we live in a broken world; there is a lot of pain and suffering in our world. We see that in the school shooting that just happened yesterday in Oregon. Our hearts and our prayers go out to them to be with them in their brokenness.

You and I have experienced brokenness in our own lives, maybe in our families, our school, our classes, or our sports. And in the brokenness sometimes we turn to sin for comfort. We turn to alcohol, drugs, or sex before marriage to numb the pain. However, that is just a temporary fix. God wants to meet us in the brokenness and pain that we have. He wants to heal us, guard us and guide us. He does that through the Church. He does that through the scriptures, He reaches us in love through them. God desires to heal us and guard us.

However, society has a misunderstanding of what it means to be a human person. They don't see the beauty of God's design. In fact they work against it at times. We see this is the Supreme Court's decision to redefine marriage. They don't see the beauty of the Sacrament of Marriage between one man and one woman. Society also struggles to see the dignity of human life. We see this most recently in the videos released about Planned Parenthood. They don't see the value in unborn human life. God in his goodness though desires to guard us and guide us through the Church. The Church helps us to see the true beauty of marriage and human life.

This is a hard teaching for many as society tells us the opposite, however, God wants to protect us and guide us through the Church. I love you as a Father and want to guard you as well as Jesus would. We need to look to Jesus Christ as our example. He died for you and me so that we can be forgiven and reach eternal life. All of us are broken, and we all sin. I am indeed a sinner and in need of God's mercy. Pope Francis has declared the upcoming year as the Year of Mercy. He wants us all to encounter the Father's mercy so that we can be made whole and healed. In encountering his love, we will be able to give his love to others. Then we too can guard others.

My brothers and sisters, as you prepare to receive Jesus today in the Eucharist, ask him to guard you and guide you to him, so that you may be guarded in your thoughts, words, and actions, indeed your whole lives. Then when we reach the end of our time here on Earth, we will hear him say, “Well done my Good and faithful servant.”