Individual Change and Promise: Suffering, Healing, Transformation

National Association of Catholic Chaplains
20 March 2010
Fr. Jan Michael Joncas
Dedication

• For Fr. Robert A. Patterson *in memoriam*
  – Chaplain and CPE Supervisor, St. Mary’s Hospital
  – Catholic Health Association officer
  – Pastor, Navaho missions, St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocesan parishes
Stage One: Chaos and Confusion

- Holy Thursday: celebrating Eucharist at St. Mary’s, Notre Dame, IN
- Good Friday: muscle weakness
- Holy Saturday: Urgent Care
- Easter Sunday: self-admission to hospital in South Bend, IN
Michael Joncas: “Lord, Send Out Your Spirit”

- REFRAIN: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (2x)

- Bless the Lord, O my soul,
- O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!
- How manifold are your works, O Lord!
- The earth is full of your creatures.
• REFAIN: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (2x)

• If you take away their breath,
• They perish and return to their dust.
• When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
• And you renew the face of the earth.
• REFRAIN: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (2x)

• May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
• May the Lord be glad in his works!
• Pleasing to him be my theme;
• I will be glad, glad in the Lord.

• REFRAIN: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (2x)
Stage Two: Diagnosis

- Easter Monday: friends arrive in South Bend
- Easter Tuesday: neurological tests
- Easter Wednesday: anointing and airlift to Mayo Clinic
- “Father in heaven, through this holy anointing grant our brothers and sisters comfort in their suffering. When they are afraid, give them courage when afflicted, give them patience, when dejected, afford them hope, and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”
Michael Joncas: “A Shelter in the Time of Storm”

- The Lord’s a rock and in him we hide:
- *A shelter in the time of storm.*
- He bids us come and with him abide:
- *A shelter in the time of storm.*

- *O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.*
- *O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*
• A shade by day, a defense by night:
• A shelter in a time of storm.
• No fear alarm and no foes affright:
• A shelter in a time of storm.

• O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.
• O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.
• The raging storms may around us beat:
• *A shelter in the time of storm.*
• We’ll never leave our safe retreat:
• *A shelter in the time of storm.*

• *O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.*
• *O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*
• O rock divine and a refuge dear:

• A shelter in the time of storm.

• Come be our helper who’s ever near:

• A shelter in the time of storm.

• O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.

• O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.
Stage Three: The Abyss

• Neurological ICU: first two weeks = sedation and psychotic dreams
• Neurological ICU: second two weeks = helplessness, learning how to pray in a new way
• Ventilator unit: first two weeks = no improvement, preparation for life in a wheelchair
Michael Joncas: “Rorate Caeli”

• Rorate, caeli, desuper et nubes pluant iustum.
• Aperiatur terra et germinet Salvatorem.
• [Drop down, heavens, from above,
• And let the clouds rain the just one.
• Let the earth be opened
• And bud forth a Savior.]
Stage Four: Therapy/Healing

• Ventilator unit: second two weeks = improvement, Mennonite visits
• Physical Therapy: first two weeks = Mass from a gurney, Dante’s Inferno
• Physical Therapy: second two weeks = the daring young man on the flying trapeze, going home
Michael Joncas:
“This Day God Gives Me”

- This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
- Sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
- Flashing of lighting, wind in its swiftness,
- Depths of the ocean, firmness of earth.
• This day God sends me strength as my steersman,
• Might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.
• Your eyes are watching, your ears are listening,
• Your lips are speaking, friend at my side.
• God’s way is my way, God’s shield is ‘round me,
• God’s host defends me, saving from ill.
• Angels of heaven, drive from me always,
• All that would harm me, stand by me still.
• Rising, I thank you, Mighty and Strong One,
• King of creation, giver of rest,
• Firmly confessing, God in Three Persons,
• Oneness of Godhead, Trinity blest.
Stage Five: A New Life

- Outpatient Therapy: three months of PT and OT at Bethesda Hospital, St. Paul, MN
- Six months: recuperation at home
- Physical: living with residuals
- Emotional: freer with feelings
- Intellectual: suffering as religious mystery
- Spiritual: the God of rescue
Michael Joncas: “All Who Are Led By The Spirit”

- REFRAIN:
- All who are led by the Spirit of Jesus,
- All those who walk in the footsteps of Christ,
- All those who follow where Love may lead them
- Are the sons and the daughters, the children of God.
• The Spirit of God is no spirit of slavery;
• The Spirit of God drives all fear from our hearts;
• The Spirit of God shatters all that would bind us;
• The Spirit of God makes us children of God.
• REFRAIN:

• All who are led by the Spirit of Jesus,
• All those who walk in the footsteps of Christ,
• All those who follow where Love may lead them
• Are the sons and the daughters, the children of God.
• The Spirit of God bids us cry: “Abba, Father.”
• The Spirit of God makes a home in our hearts;
• The Spirit of God helps our spirits bear witness:
• The Spirit of God makes us children of God.
• **REFRAIN:**

• All who are led by the Spirit of Jesus,
• All those who walk in the footsteps of Christ,
• All those who follow where Love may lead them
• Are the sons and the daughters, the children of God.
• The Spirit of God gives us patience in suffering;
• The Spirit of God intercedes for our needs;
• The Spirit of God is our promise of glory:
• The Spirit of God makes us children of God.
• REFRAIN:

• All who are led by the Spirit of Jesus,
• All those who walk in the footsteps of Christ,
• All those who follow where Love may lead them
• Are the sons and the daughters, the children of God.
• The Spirit of God groans with all of creation;
• The Spirit of God blesses dreams of the past;
• The Spirit of God sets a vision before us;
• The Spirit of God makes us children of God.
• **FINAL REFRAIN:**

• We who are led by the Spirit of Jesus,
• We who will walk in the footsteps of Christ,
• We who will follow where Love may lead us
• Are the sons and the daughters, the children of God.