

Fr. O'Connor's Homily - July 22, 2018

Have you ever noticed that the Gospels focus frequently on the effect Jesus had on the emotions of others and less often on His own inner state? But in today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was moved with pity, with sadness for the vast crowd, for they were like sheep without a shepherd.

When was the last time you felt pity, sorrow for someone or some group? Last Saturday I visited the site where the young man was murdered only hours before at the corner of First and Quail Streets. I saw a lot of candles and whiskey bottles and flowers assembled on the sidewalk as a memorial for the young man and I saw young men and women standing around, some looking angry, many looking sad and bewildered.

I felt sadness, pity for these young people and for the family of the young man.

When I came to St. Joseph's in Arbor Hill in 1970, there was optimism about what the Church could do. There were five Catholic Churches in the area which included West Hill. There were four grade schools and even a high school. Now we are down to one parish.

During these past few weeks there have been many events that could effect us. Even this past week our president's trip to Europe affected many of us as did the escape of the youth from the cave in Thailand.

I love the words of the Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkins in his poem God's Grandeur. There lives the dearest freshness deep down things; And though the last lights off the black West went Oh, morning and the brown brink eastward, springs- Because the Holy Ghost over the bent World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

I'm for that! There is always hope. Shortly after the scene in today's Gospel Jesus invites the vast crowd to sit down on a hillside and performs the great miracle of the loaves and the fishes.

And always remember Jesus died on a Friday but he rose on a Sunday.