



October 25, 2009
The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"...Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." Mark 10:49

St. Anne
CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY

Dear Friends;

In today's Gospel Jesus asks Bartimaeus "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus replies "Master, I want to see" Jesus' response is "Go your way, your faith has saved you." The Gospel then tells us "Immediately he received his sight and followed him on his way." Like so many other Gospel stories Jesus sees beyond the physical, he sees and touches the whole person.

We too are called to see and touch the whole person. But often it is hard because we are busy with our own lives or we think we can or need to handle everything ourselves and by asking for help or allowing others to help we are being weak.

In an article titled "I Will Never Know Why" Susan Klebold the mother of Dylan Klebold writes about the horror and anguish her son caused on April 20, 1999 at Columbine High School. In struggling to try to understand why her son did such a horrific thing she began with Dylan's suicide and learned as much as she could about suicide.

Susan believes that Dylan, who was accustomed to handling things on his own being self-reliant, tried to push his negative thoughts and feelings aside. She did not see his journals until six months after his death to realize he had been dealing with these issues for nearly two years. Criminal pathologists believe he was depressed and suicidal.

Approximately 33,000 people commit suicide each year in the United States. Suicide is a complex issue and is thought to be caused by a mix of pathology, character and circumstances that can cause severe emotional distress. It is important to know that if you are having thoughts about suicide you can call 800-273-8255 and speak with a counselor.

For those who have lost a loved one to suicide National Survivors of Suicide Day is November 21st. More information can be found at www.afsp.org clicking on the Surviving Suicide Loss link.

I realize that Dylan Klebold, the Columbine shootings, suicide and surviving suicide are not easy subjects and much more can and needs to be said than a short letter in a parish bulletin can say. But maybe if we see beyond the physical and try to touch the whole person we will help someone contemplating suicide or the family and friends, the survivors of suicide.

Peace,

Lisa