

# Lenten Reflections for EOHSJ

## Third Sunday of Lent 2019

Reflection by Rev. Stephen Porter, KCHS



Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9 Call to Repentance and the Barren Fig Tree

**W**e Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre are honoured to be chosen to be members, but the honour is not ours! We didn't join to be honoured, we joined to serve. Last week in the Sunday Gospel, Jesus showed Peter, James and John His glory in the Transfiguration, but quickly tempered it in the reality of being on the top of a mountain with the cold wind blowing (and it's always a cold wind on Mt. Tabor as I am sure you all have experienced!) This week Jesus speaks of the need to repent, reminding us of our Church's call to continual repentance, especially during Lent. As Knights and Ladies how shall we do this?

**T**he Catholic Knight and Lady first seek God in all things – what they say and do, how they dress and comport themselves, the way they respect other people, animals and the environment, their generosity and charity in life, and their involvement in the Church and its mission. Each of these is a challenge to 21st century Americans, but as Knights and Ladies we are up to the challenge because Jesus calls us to repentance, and in repentance we find renewal.

**K**nights and Ladies love and respect their God-given spouse, and profess this love proudly, knowing that all love is from God. We love the children given to us in our marriages, and raise them to be godly children, respecting others and loving God. We honour our own parents, and indeed follow the Ten Commandments of the old order as well as the Great Commandment of the New Order, which in the call to love as Jesus loves completes the old order, but does not negate it. We are people who love this gift of life from God to the fullest, knowing that any moment – at God's command – we may draw our last breath.

**W**ow, what an order! How can we possibly fulfill this? *Ecclesia supplet* – as we learnt in seminary – the Church will supply what we need, and the Church does in the seven Sacraments. Jesus says to cultivate the ground around you and fertilize it with the graces of the Sacraments. So live your Sacraments and allow your Sacrament to work for you. Baptism, Confirmation (treasure their anniversaries each year), and Eucharist we have all received. Confession – be regular in your participation of this Sacrament. Anointing – if you are ill do not hesitate to ask for it. Ask your priest before Mass as he may want to anoint you in the Mass with the prayerful support of the whole congregation. Some are married and some are ordained (and lucky deacons have both!) – treasure these two even if you are not married, or not ordained. These anniversaries are also to be remembered as the moment when those particular Sacraments changed your lives. See how loving and generous is the Church? See how good it is for Knights and Ladies to produce much good fruit for the Lord by our godly lives of service.

Blessings.

Rev. Stephen Porter, KCHS, was invested in the Order in 2003 and has led pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Fr. Steve is a priest of the Diocese of San Bernardino, and serves at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Community in Beaumont, California.