

# Pastor's Letter

## 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

In our Gospel reading for today the people are amazed that Jesus' teaches them, not like one of the Scribes or Pharisees but, "as one having authority." What does that mean? It means that Jesus word contained power to change reality, the power to cast out evil. That's exactly what he does for the one possessed by an evil spirit. At one command from Jesus the demon is forced to leave the man. That's authority. Jesus has it because he is the author of all creation.

In the book of Genesis, when God creates everything he does so with his word. He says, let there be light and sun and moon and stars and dry land and fish and birds and plants and animals and human beings and they come into being. The word of God is effective. It makes things happen. Jesus' powerful word shows that he is connected to the power that made everything.

God's creative word still has the power to form reality today. God's word brings healing forgiveness, and strength into being in the hearts of those who hear it. He speaks with authority today through his church. The Spirit of Christ who cast out demons and raised the dead lives and works in his disciples today.

You and I have been given the authority and power to change the world if we will first give our lives over to the authority and power of Christ. We can speak the truth that sets people free from fear and anger if we allow the word of God to be our hope and our peace. When we become new creations in Christ, we become instruments that God can use to make the whole world new. The powers of this world only have the power to destroy. God gives us the power to create when we share the faith that give us hope.

The people were amazed when Jesus set the possessed man free. Today, we who have been brought into the light of Christ are called to be signs to the world that God is still speaking powerfully, with authority, and is still setting people free.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott