

October 18, 2012

Dear Friends,

Today is the feast day of St. Luke the Evangelist. He is the patron saint of our parish who prays for us to God in heaven. In life, St. Luke was an artist and a physician. He is given credit for painting the first icon, which are windows into heaven.

St. Luke is also the author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. God is the true author of Sacred Scripture so the Church believes that St. Luke wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

As when one paints a picture a story is told by what someone reads. St. Luke wanted to tell us about Jesus, our loving Savior. He wanted us to know that Jesus was the divine physician who "laid his hands on each of them and cured them" (Luke 4:40). He wanted us to know that Jesus considers us part of his family: "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it" (Luke 8: 21). He also wanted us to know that Jesus is always mindful of the poor: "this poor widow put in more than all the rest" (Luke 21: 3).

Christians should use their gifts to preach Christ to a world hungry to know who God is. People fill the emptiness of life with many things that are harmful. Drugs and alcohol destroy individuals and families. Many hours are spent surfing the internet for pornography. Isn't Christ stronger than these addictions? When someone finds the Lord they find peace and happiness.

Have you noticed what is unfolding in our society today: It is just about forbidden to speak about God outside of church? Even ministers and priests are politely and firmly requested not to mention the name of Jesus in public gatherings. No one can mention his name even in prayer.

When we use our gifts to preach Christ to a hungry world we are giving people the opportunity to hear the name of Jesus. Then they will know just who it is that is knocking at their door. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

It might just bring about the positive change we are looking for in our life: a reason to put down the bottle, to say no to drugs and turn away from pornography. St. Luke told us about Jesus who had the power to heal the sick and raise the dead. He can do the same for us today.

Father, you chose Luke the Evangelist to reveal  
By preaching and writing the mystery of your love for the poor.  
Unite in one heart and spirit all who glory in your name,  
And let all nations come to see your salvation. Amen.