

Last Sunday readings before Ash Wed.

- Sirach: **Words matter / We don't baptize your child.**
- Jesus, **Through him, with him, in him** / Jesus thru His priest Baptizes your child.
- Cake recipe / certain realities found in words / Things have esse' / a nature.
(Need specifically eggs and chocolate to make a chocolate cake).
- Saying the words of Jesus Himself (Take and Eat)
- Story of Baltimore youth Mass.

-Our words matter

- We don't have the power to name things as we choose to.
- Adam named things due to what they are (esse" / Essence / Their Nature).
- Thus, names and words matter.

As we begin Lent:

- Let's take example of clay being placed in the fire / kiln.**
- If clay pot isn't prepared properly / removal of impurities & water.
(when placed in the fire / extreme heat - Clay pot will crumble).

-What we say matters / The words we use matter.

- When I was young some hurtful things were repeated to me.
- I thought they defined me as they came from an important person.

-But as Adam named the animals according to their essence / God names us according to His love for us in His image and likeness.

-Through Jesus and faith / I learned my soul is in God's image / Thus God says: you have value and dignity / I love you!

- Your essence isn't what that person has said of you / They cannot make up who you are / which can only be defined by God.
- Through the miracle of God I was reconciled with this person / Healing.

We can always encourage others by our words, by our prayer, and by our kindness — and especially by sacrifice, which You called exercising mercy in spirit

(Diary, 1316).

And every prayer of Mercy begins with Love.

How do we remove the (Wooden Beam) from our own eye? (Confession)!

-The more we understand that we are sinners (Forgiven through the Mercy of God) The more we might have instructive words, but also during times of correction / Always words of encouragement / Building up / With Kindness and Mercy.

-We can know our Spiritual Well-being by the words that come forth from our lips. (St. James Ch. 1)...Build up the Kingdom.

He who trusts in My mercy will not perish, for all his affairs are Mine, and his enemies will be shattered at the base of My footstool (*Diary, 723*).