

As a reminder: If you didn't receive a Diocesan Card for a Novena Prayer for Drew Navarro, who will be Ordained as a Transitional Deacon on April 26 (Incidentally the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday) - Have no fear. I am going to pray a "Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena" starting on Good Friday, to prepare Drew for this important day. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a powerful prayer for many different intentions. A Divine Mercy Chaplet [Novena (9 Days)] was prayed for Poland by Sister Faustina, so certainly we can pray one for God's Mercy and presence to be with Drew during this time.

And now a short reflection using (Jn 10:31-42)

-The Genesis story of the Old Covenant made with Abraham, and continued in the Old Testament through David / Will be perfected in the New Testament by the "Author of the Covenant" - Jesus Christ / "I AM."

-Jesus refers to Himself multiple times as "I AM" in John using the same grammatical structure as God's "I AM" at the burning bush / Today Jesus says: you say "I am" the Son of God, which is a play on, but not the same structure as the burning bush "I Am" because they have rejected Him.

-Yet, both Jesus and prophets will be rejected by many / Certainly our Palm Sunday readings show that Jesus was rejected / Yet Jesus ("I AM") was before all things including Abraham & the Prophets.

-We then read: "Many began to believe in Him" / They had recognized His Signs / In John's Gospel, towards the beginning / John describes Jesus's Miracles (Known as John's "Book of Signs") / Which points us to Jesus as "I AM," / He is God / Jesus desires for us to bear the fruits of His signs / His Power and Glory.

As we head into Holy Week

-Jesus says: "If you remain in my word - The truth will set you free" / To do this means we have made a decision / To actually leave the port and set sail.

-We are here at Mass because you have made a decision / Thank Him for His Blessings / For His signs / You will see the fruit / May we fight the good fight and persevere to the Glorious End.

-Let us stand today at the foot of the Cross with Mary! / Because what will follow is Glory and Reconciliation / The Resurrection and LIFE!

-The Sadducee's didn't believe in the afterlife.

-Thank goodness for the Resurrection / There is more than this life alone.

-Let us live in victory not defeat / For those who are patient, we will see the signs and fruit / For we shall encounter the "I Am" who desires to walk with us.

**Vivat Jesus,
Father Vic Gournas**

