

FEBRUARY 5, 2026 FATHER PETER TURRONE

Our parents were chosen for us by God. They were given to us to help us to navigate through life, to discern the reason why God created us, and to help us along the way. To help us to understand the purpose for which we were created.

Again, and to live in conformity to the love, and the law of God, as revealed to us in the scriptures. So it's a very beautiful and a very important calling. Right, it's a privilege with a lot of responsibility.

In the first reading, we hear that David, he comes to this acute awareness of the fact that he is going to die. He's getting close to the end of his life. And David is a humble man, he's also a repentant sinner, and we know, when we read throughout the scriptures, we know what kind of a life that he had.

But with all the different things that he did and didn't do, we know that David had a love for God. Again, his heart was in the right place, even though his actions, at times, were very against the love of God, and his explicit will.

So with all this in hand, we can say by looking at the scriptures that his awareness of his coming death, right, that he's going to face his God, allows him, with great humility, to look back, and to learn many different things from that.

He realizes, when he lived independently from God, things didn't go well. But when he lived for God, things went well. And he wants to communicate this to his son. And so again, this is—we can see this.

As a priest, whenever I've gone to speak to people that are dying, you know, and to help them as they're entering like the final stage of their

lives, you can see that there's something changes. And we could have many conversations, but when it comes towards the moment of death, everything becomes very solemn.

So you can get a sense of that with David. So he's speaking to his son, and he's telling him, and he's saying, look, be strong, be courageous, “keep the charge of the Lord, your God, walk in his ways and keep his statutes, his commands, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as written in the law of Moses. And by doing so, you will prosper.”

He's not speaking of material wealth, but he's speaking about the spiritual blessings by being close to God. By living in his love, being part of his family. So he's communicating this.

And Solomon, right, so, we know that he dies, as we hear at the end of the first reading, and then Solomon receives this wisdom. And then you're going to hear throughout, as you continue reading the scriptures as well, that for however long Solomon is listening, and he's walking in the Lord, things go well.

But then again, when he turns away from the God, things go badly for him also. He kind of loses his mind at a certain point.

So, it's so important for parents, right, for all of you, grandparents, people in positions of authority, right, so as to be able to communicate what is ultimately important to others. And the one who communicates the most important thing, of course, is the Lord.

So in today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speaking to the 12. So he is our God, he's the Lord. Right? So remember the beautiful titles that we reflected upon during the season of Christmas, right, weeks ago.

So, when we reflect upon this, and it's Jesus, who is Lord, speaking to us, what he says is word. Is the truth.

And he gives a mission, and he sends off his disciples, again, and it reaches its culmination, and its fulfilment, and at the newest possible level, after his ascension, and then when he sends off the Apostles, and then through baptism all of us get sent off as well, to share in this mission.

He says, “Go two by two,” he gives a special authority, and he says, “Do not take anything with you.”

So, why is there this insistence to not take many things? Well, because ultimately, the Lord wants us to be completely and totally dependent upon him, and on him alone.

So, it's easier for certain people. If you're a religious and you've taken vows of poverty. Right? So some people can actually live it in a radical way.

But all of us are called to live in such a way that we recognize that everything ultimately depends on the Lord, and not on ourselves.

So, the less I rely on—not even so much as material objects, but also on our own human way of thinking.

Right, so in the Church, you know, God has blessed us with so many charisms. But at times, we can focus less on the charisms, and be more fixated on programs. As if a program is going to save the world.

Right, they're useful, but the logic of the Gospel is what's necessary.

So, relying less on programs, and relying more on the Holy Spirit is what helps us to truly evangelize.

And this is why you hear Jesus say like when you go, and you do these things, right, you're going to be able to cast out demons, right, people are going to repent, the sick will be cured.

Well, that doesn't come so much from programs, but it comes from the fact that we rely on the Holy Spirit.

And Dr. Mary Healy, she is a wonderful theologian, right, she spent a lot of time talking about the importance of charisms.

So God gives these charisms to all of us. Alright, to every single baptized man and woman and child.

So, we have to ask God for these supernatural charisms. And by asking God for these supernatural charisms, God is so generous, so he will give them to us.

And he wants to give them to us for glory of his Church, for the upbuilding of his kingdom. So that what we say will be matched by proof of that.

That there is a divine calling, that the words that we say are from the Lord himself, and not just the opinions of people.

So, the Lord sends them off, and he says, go and bring peace.

So, we're going to go everywhere—he wants us to not be afraid, and we need the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit gives us courage, so we're not afraid to have those conversations with people.

And I can tell you, I've had that experience myself. At times I've been afraid to have certain conversations, and it's obviously when somebody sees me, that I'm a priest, because I'm wearing my collar, but at times, even still.

Right, because you wonder, like, what's this person going to say? You don't know what's going to happen.

But then when I have overcome that fear, and I've trusted in God, and had this conversation, at times things go much better than I expected.

So, who knows? The Lord wants us to be open.

You know, the sun shines every day. The Lord is constantly reaching out to us.

So, if somebody closes the door, right, if they close the door, and or they close the blinds, they shut the blinds, so that the sun shines in, I mean, it's their decision.

The sun is always there, God is always inviting.

So, the Lord wants us to trust. He wants us to trust in him, and by trusting in him completely, and in his promises for us, then amazing things can happen.

But as we go out, and we speak the truth in charity with regards to the reality of having to turn away from sin, right, and to repent, the best evidence we give for that is by repenting ourselves.

Right, it's one thing to tell somebody what's right and what's wrong, but people are—will become less defensive if they see that we ourselves are working on our own salvation in fear and trembling, as Paul tells us.

So, we ask the Lord for the grace, again, to recognize the great commission, that this calling is not just for the Apostles, it's for every baptized man, woman, and child.

To learn to overcome our fear, to trust in God.

And to believe that the Lord wants to endow us with many supernatural charisms, so that we can be effective in our testimony to a world that is in desperate need of salvation.