

THE BIBLE AND THE CELL PHONE...

All of us today it seems are very connected to our cell phones. Everywhere I go, especially in the city, I see so many young people walking around absorbed in their I-Phones. Of course as we all know, you can do much more than just talk on those phones, you can do anything! Yes, our cell phones are our constant companions and go everywhere with us-even to church-a reminder to shut them off before mass begins!

A priest friend of mine recently asked a question that I thought was interesting. The question posed was this: "What if we treated our bible like we treat our cell phones? What if we carried it around in our purses or our pockets? What if we flipped through it several times a day? What if we used it to receive messages from the text? What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it? What if we gave it to the kids as gifts? What if we used it as we travelled? What if we used it in case of an emergency?" Those are some questions that make us go hmmm...Where is my bible?

Even though I know you can download a bible onto a cell phone, still if we have a real bible in our hands we won't have to worry about being disconnected because Jesus has already paid our bill! The scripture should be very important to us as Catholics. In the past it was always falsely believed by our Protestant Brethren, that Catholics were not encouraged to read the bible or even have one. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. The church through her popes and bishops throughout the years has always encouraged the reading of the Holy Scriptures.

With the revised liturgy after Vatican Two, we now listen at Mass to readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament. Recently, I heard about a lector who stood up to do the reading at Mass and announced, "This is a reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Filipinos." Of course, it should have been "Phillippians." But we all make mistakes at times!

One mistake that we should never make is not to reflect or meditate on the readings at Mass. In this regard a good missal or a missalette could help us understand a little better what is being proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word.

A couple of weeks ago, on September 30th, we celebrated the Feast of St. Jerome-no relation by the way! St. Jerome, who lived in the fourth century, was a great father of the church. He is famous because he translated the bible from Hebrew into Latin. This translation, used until recently in the church, was known as "The Vulgate" because Latin was the common or "Vulgar" tongue of the day.

St. Jerome once made this statement: "Ignorance of the scripture is ignorance of Christ." Since as Catholics we do not certainly want to be ignorant about Jesus, we should be in the habit of picking up the bible and praying and meditating on it.

Back in April of 2014 at an audience in St. Peter's Square, the Holy Father Pope Francis handed out thousands of copies of the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. The Pope said, "Read

a passage every day-it is the Word of Jesus!" Let us take our cue from Pope Francis and "Stay Connected" to the Lord by reading our bible every day.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerome*