



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! This past week, I came across *The Legend of the Ladybug*. I had never heard of this before and thought I would share it with you here:

The legend of the ladybug comes from Europe during the Middle Ages, when swarms of insects attacked the crops, threatening Europe with starvation. Catholic farmers asked the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, to save them from this insect plague. In answer to their prayers, a cloud of small, black-spotted, red insects arrived, devoured the pests, and saved the crops. The grateful farmers named them "Our Lady's Bugs," which became "Ladybugs." The red wings represent the Virgin Mary's red cloak and the 14 black spots were thought to represent her seven joys and seven sorrows.

Isn't that interesting? Certainly an uplifting story, but is it more than that? Is it true? Like most legends there are bits and pieces of Truth: Ladybugs do eat other insects, they did exist in the Middle Ages and their name early on was affiliated with Mary, Our Lady's Bird or Beetle. But evidence of the insect plague hard to find. One thing's for sure, the lady bug has a special appeal across history.

This brings me to the importance of history. With the start of another school year upon us and the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 this week, I am struck by the quickness of time and the making of history. For many of us, the events of 9/11 are more than history, they are part of our own life experience. But with each passing year, the 9/11 events become for a growing number of people, merely parts of history. We have arrived at the point when all those in college have no memory of 9/11. They were either not born or too young to remember. **Thus the importance of history, the importance of good teachers, the importance of one generation to the next.** This is true especially now, when so much of history is left untold, mis-told or even: "Cancelled"!

Thankfully, the events and reality of our Christian Faith: The Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord are different. These can never be cancelled, because such events are on-going. Christ is alive! God is with us and by His grace, We are with God.

This week, I encourage you all to speak of history to those around you, especially those younger than you. 9/11 is a perfect day for us to do that. But use the opportunity to speak also of your faith. Speak of the person of Jesus in your life. The hope that He has offered you, the love that you have received and the faith that keeps you going. All of that is more than a legend, it's more than hand-me-down religion. It is true, it is beautiful and it has great power to save.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

236