

## **Homily – Appeal Donor Appreciation Mass**

**January 20, 2018**

**We have come together in great joy and deep appreciation for the generosity of our Appeal Donors. My heart is full of gratitude to all of you for being here. On a day of celebration, today's readings from Scripture may at first seem inappropriate – King David's mourning over the deaths of Saul and Jonathan – and Jesus' family wanting to take him home because they thought he was out of his mind! The word of God is often challenging, calling us to deeper reflection on our lives as missionary disciples of the risen Lord!**

**David was living in a Philistine village when King Saul was killed by the Philistines. Saul had been trying to kill David. One might expect that David would rejoice to hear that his enemy had been killed. However, David's grief is broader than his own personal situation: all Israel has lost its leader in battle. Moreover, David's best friend, Jonathan, has also been killed. David's lament moves beyond his own personal loss to include everyone in mourning for the loss to the nation. It is not a question of winning and losing. For David, life – and politics – is much more significant. The word of God challenges each of us to go beyond our own little space and daily**

preoccupations to a concern about the community at large. The situation in our Archdiocese, in our nation, and in our world calls for such a wide embrace of our thoughts, emotions, and resources.

Jesus is sent into the world by his heavenly Father to proclaim the gospel, the good news of God's enduring love, a message also of justice, peace, harmony, and community in the kingdom of God. His mission seemed to others – including his own family – to be quite eccentric, nontraditional, beyond their own capacity to dream, outside their daily routines and concerns. He was apparently an embarrassment. It would be better to lock him in a closet where he cannot upset others, including the religious and political authorities.

But Jesus – and his mother Mary – came into the world to show us what it means not only to pray “thy will be done” but also to do God's will -- even at a great cost to ourselves. We are called to be missionary disciples, SENT BY THE SPIRIT. We are to proclaim the gospel by the way we live our lives – reaching out to those in need, preparing for the Church's future ministers, supporting one another in a great communion of love that is our Archdiocese. Yes, and even if some think we are a bit crazy in doing so! Our Lady of Guadalupe, help us to be faithful disciples always!