Father Nick Mezacapa June 13th – Pentecost 3

As soon as a baby is born their highly evolved human brain starts to learn about the world outside the Mama. There is a loose order of things the baby begins to learn, which I would assume varies for each individual baby.

The earliest lessons involve recognizing the faces, the touches and the voices of the parents, who satisfy the babies need for food and comfort… Then it’s on to sounds and temperatures and light… and everything! And way down the learning list for every child is learning to be patient… waiting for your turn; to arrive at the destination; for dinner… (Most of us never actually master this lesson, and find patience to be very stressful—waiting for the answer, the loan to go through, waiting at a 4-way stop sign… or the 4th quarter).

In his brilliant parable of The Mustard Seed, Jesus includes a critical reminder about the discipline of patience! The sizable mustard bush starts as just a tiny seed that over time, grows big enough for the “birds of the air to build their nests in its branches”! But it takes time… from the earth, to the stalk, to the head, - the grain, the harvest. Time. Care……….. Patience. It takes patience to watch the seed grow into the big bush…Ultimately the key to being patient … is about “keeping your cool”.

If you’ve ever read the book entitled, “Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy,” or seen the movie – and I commend both to you if you haven’t, - the “galactic” – guide - manual itself has two words on the cover, “Don’t Panic”. We don’t like to wait. It is suspenseful. It’s a struggle. Take child raising for example. Adolescence (a practical everyday example) can be rugged for parents and their children, as they trek through the challenges and pitfalls of transition (from little child to young adult).

For some, the “transition” is very emotional – with late nights, slammed doors, curfews broken, trusts challenged… But, we can’t panic, we need to stay with it. Don’t abandon the struggle or the child (and vice versa). The process of their growing up and the re-sculpting of the relationship between a parent and a child is a major exercise in the parable of the stages of growth that Jesus told. Parents and children you have to be patient, have faith in your love, and re-negotiate your new relationship that is the fruit of the harvest, with that love. (It’s tough but the reward- the fruit of the renegotiation lasts a lifetime…) Be patient. Don’t panic. Don’t quit. And of course, we need to be patient with one another too. If we can be, then the odds for untainted results go way up! Love is patient and Kind. AMEN!