

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time 'B - 2021**  
**Wisdom 2.12, 17-20///James 3.16-4.3///Mark 9.30-37**  
**PowerUp→Reconnect Weekend**

→welcome to POWER UP→Reconnect weekend!

→as you can tell a lot of energy and focus has gone into this event for our parish

→this weekend is about POWERING UP and RECONNECTING to our parish, to ministry and to one another after months of the pandemic and dealing with the virus.

→[and]...the genesis behind this event is our attempt to bring our parish back to the vibrancy and vitality that was happening in early 2020...

→think back to that time...our parish was running on all eight cylinders...we were planning for Fish Dinners...religious education was in full swing...we were anticipating Confirmation and First Communion...two people were preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil...Liturgy Committee had planned our Lenten Season...the Women's Guild was planning their Card Party, Knights of Columbus their Reverse Raffle...Parish Life, Bereavement, Prayer Shawl, Golden Agers, NAIM Club, and every other group in the parish was moving ahead with activities and events...

→and then on March 20...we turned it all of...like turning off your car engine...we turned off the lights...we locked the doors...and for eleven weeks we sat dormant...Easter came and went...along with Mother's Day...

→and then in June...after 77 days...we turned the motor back on...and like anything that sits dormant for any period of time...it was a slow start...

→and since then...we have been kind of running on four cylinders...planning events with the hope of them happening but always under the cloud of adapting and change...canceling and adjusting.

→PSR had to go virtual...Christmas was different...Fish Dinners were drive thru... and almost everything else was under the cloud of possibility,... maybe....or perhaps

→early this summer we all enjoyed some hints things returning to normal...only to see the same challenges return....

→we continue to live with the virus...resigned now to realize that the virus is going to be a part of life now.....that it's not going to go away

→a few months ago I said in a homily that at some point we probably will have to make a decision....to either let the virus control our lives...or....for us to control the virus in our lives....and I think that is the point we now find ourselves...

→[and] so in this light.....its time to POWER UP → and RECONNECT

→this past summer parish staff had a long discussion on what we might do to get things back to as normal as they could be...and that is how we came to the idea of Powering UP→and Reconnecting.

...i.o.w...it is time to get back to running on all 8 cylinders...and hopefully this afternoon [this weekend's] event will be the beginning to make that happen.

→because this afternoon's event...is just not about feeding and entertaining...(that is a significant piece) but is also about RECONNECTING to ministry...to commitment....and to responsibility....

POWER UP→RECONNECT is our parish theme for this year....

→and this afternoon we are going ask you to consider RECONNECTING to ministry...RECONNECTING to commitment and RECONNECTING to responsibility.

→--in today's gospel we find Jesus pushing the disciples beyond **their comfort**

**zone**

→they were interested in who might be the greatest...while Jesus was tells them that if they wish to be first they **have to be last** and the **servant of all**

→while the disciples argue about status.....Jesus talks about service

→he wraps his arms around a child///places the child in front of them and identifies himself w/child.

→saying.... “welcome this child, and you welcome me”

→it is a dramatic statement that drives home how we should stand before God and one another

PAUSE

→you know many of you...tell me that you like when I leave the pulpit and walk around ...yet for me...this is one of the hardest things to do...because the pulpit is my comfort zone.....

→today I want to ask you to leave your comfort zone...and to consider becoming more active in the life of our parish...

→we need you...our parish needs you

→....we need liturgical ministers....fish dinner workers....Knights of Columbus... Women’s Guild members....Religious Education catechists....Bereavement ministers

→we need to move beyond our comfort zone....of thinking let some else do that...or I can’t do that....and embrace the opportunities before us...

→today we are being reminded of the childlike wisdom Jesus presents to us today

→that as we gather around the altar every week and in everything we do as believer, we do so in the same way in which Christ puts his arms around a small child

→remembering that greatness lies in how we serve...how we take care of one another

→we all have a chance to be “great” ...in our own unique and special way

→and we are reminded once again today...that true greatness in the eyes of Christ is rooted in who we are and by how we serve one another.

→in simple terms...let's all POWER UP and RECONNECT