

Day 218 – Saturday, October 24

I am off to a funeral in Nipawin (Deacon Brian McLane) and I am a little pressed for time

Admonish The Sinner

Reaching out to someone who is lost can be very overwhelming, especially if that person doesn't think they are heading down the wrong path. What do we say? When is the right time to say it? Many of us keep silent and avoid those uncomfortable conversations because the last thing we want to do is force our beliefs on someone or jeopardize our relationship.

Admonishing the sinner doesn't mean beating people with the truth, or condemning them for their sins. Reaching out to someone who is lost—whether a parent, sibling, child, friend, co-worker, or neighbor—means loving that person enough to help them understand they are off the path to God, and illuminating the way back through mercy, love, and truth.

When we have a healthy relationship with someone and that person knows we love them and want what is best for them, they are more interested in and receptive to what we have to say. But we need to be conscious of not only what we say, but also how we say it. What does it mean to be merciful in our communication of truth—in admonishing the sinner?

It means being intentional and meticulous with how we choose our words—
words full of meaning and appeal.

It means letting our love of God and God's love for the other person radiate.

It means relying on God to work through us and being patient with God's timing.

It means attentively listening and responding to what the other person has to say.

It means humbly recognizing our own weakness and tendency to sin.

It means giving witness to the incredible things God has done and is doing in our lives.

It means being courteous, respectful, gentle, and open to discussion.

It means praying for the other person and entrusting them to God.

When a person was lost in sin, reach out and show her/him the way. We are all called to do the same thing for the people in our lives. Through love. Through mercy. We can lead our loved ones back to God

In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley

Sincerely,
Fr. Jim Kaptein