

Today is the Feast Day of St. Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke, historical research shows him to be a close associate of St. Paul, he was a medical doctor with a high level of education and he applied his life to the advancement of the Kingdom of God and the person of Jesus Christ. Even though today's Mass is a Memorial Mass for Arthur Mauro, I have kept the Scriptural texts for the celebration of St. Luke as they speak somewhat to what Arthur Mauro was all about and inspired him to found a Center/Institute for the advancement of Peace and Justice. I remember well the private lunch I had with him at the Manitoba Club where he explained to me the genesis of the founding of the Center, namely a place to advance the cause of peace, inspired by the best of the Abrahamic Faiths. His own Catholic Faith enabled him to consider broadly what Christianity embraces, namely a sense of what Pope Francis refers to as Social Friendship as outlined in Fratelli Tutti- Brothers all- reaching beyond the borders for the sake of humanity.

In the Reading from 2nd Timothy, St. Paul reveals, the constant plight of human beings, religious or not, namely strife, division and yes violence of one kind or another. Its most interesting to read about the everyday life in the advancement of the Christian project, with books being forgotten etc. But more to the point, the internal strife within the community. Paul appeals to a higher ideal-well that is a little bit too generic-as a Christian he appeals to Christ for help: "But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and all gentiles might hear it." The full message of course, was peace, the Peace of Christ- shall we say the hope that is Christ.

Jesus himself, sends the 70 disciples out to proclaim a message of peace-as Our Lord puts it: "*The Kingdom of God has come near to you.*" What is interesting about this message is that it is a message about hope-actually hope in a person, the Son of God-but a hope that has already drawn near-a reign that has drawn near, not a static kingdom. There is hope here and now. And furthermore these 70 mostly uneducated men, were to go to the places that Jesus wanted to go-but he gave this responsibility to his followers who could always, like Paul, call upon him. We learn that Christ desires to go to these places and these people with a message of hope.

Our purpose today, is to recollect that Our Lord uses all manner of people and circumstances to advance to dignity of human beings and give them a higher vision of themselves and purpose on this earth. This idea must, in a certain sense, be the hope that Arthur Mauro had in advancing opportunities for peace through his Center, now Institute. And for that we are very grateful. Today, St. Paul's College wishes to recognize Arthur's gift and to express thanks for his contribution to humanity. It was a privilege to be associated with him and remains a privilege to be concerned with the work of the Institute. But we also mourn his loss and express our grief today as well.

Of course, the Arthur Mauro Institute for Peace and Justice was only one aspect of his life-a life rich in relationships with his beloved family, friends and many years of life experience. In today's Mass we simply ask the Lord to give Arthur the rewards of his goodness and to receive him into his peace-the peace that the world cannot give but is offered to all of us.