

4TH SUNDAY
LENT
YR B 2018
10 / 11
MARCH

The Parish of St James



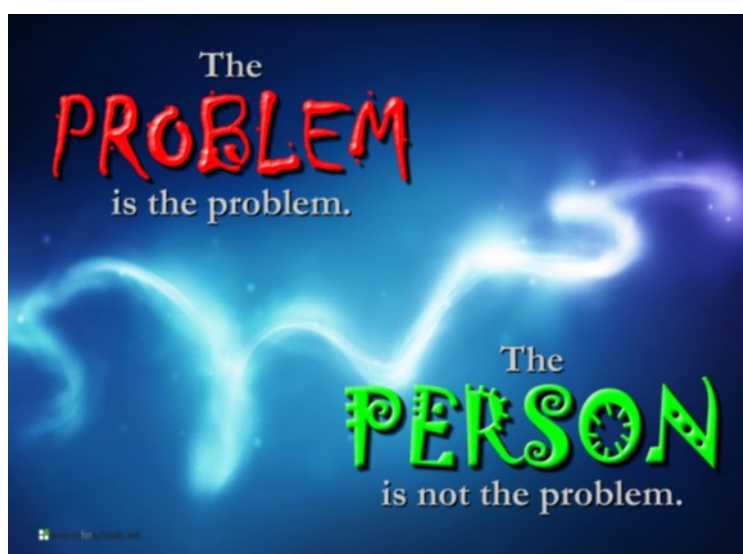
Coorparoo.

An Augustinian Parish:
Archdiocese of Brisbane.



From the Prioory Window

Sure, we believe that “God sent his Son into the world not to condemn.....”, but we all make mistakes and sometimes we judge and condemn each other. Plain mistakes, a ‘stuff up’ or wrongdoing by another can lead to conflict. This is particularly so if people feel hurt by another’s mistake. At the very least, a mistake or wrongdoing can signal that there is ‘a problem’.



In such times, I find the truth expressed in this poster to be helpful. I know this poster because it is displayed around Villanova College. When there is conflict, students are assisted to deal with the problem while being respectful of the inherent dignity of the person who make the mistake.

The problem will only be resolved if the offender is respected and supported to deal with the issue. The loving support of the community is needed so that the offender has the strength to

leave behind whatever has separated them from others.

Centuries ago, St Augustine made the same distinction as the poster when he said, “love the sinner, hate the sin”. Along with Pope Francis, Lent is a good time to acknowledge that all of us are sinners.

As a parish community living in the Augustinian tradition, we hold the formation and maintenance of community as a fulfilment of the twofold commandment to love God and neighbour. One loves God by attending to love of neighbour in community. And living in community is not easy! One writer defines community as, “that place where the person I least like to work with is always present”. But, St Augustine writes of the joy and learning that can come from working to resolve disagreements or conflicts or problems within community.

Community is where one encounters ‘the other’ — Christ! Love of Christ, love in community, is to wish for, and to work for, the common good and the good and well-being of ‘the other’ and particularly ‘the other’ or ‘the others’ when there is a problem. It’s worth repeating:

“THE PROBLEM IS THE PROBLEM. THE PERSON IS NOT THE PROBLEM.”

Fr Peter osa Parish Administrator.

(with acknowledgement of the writings of Graeme George, staff, Villanova College)