



Academy of Our Lady of Grace

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Dear Parents,

Homecoming

Today we remember a dramatic turning point in Jesus' ministry. It seems he is enjoying great success. He has become a celebrity so mobbed by admirers that he and his disciples can hardly find a quiet space for a meal. Now he has arrived for what we might expect to be a triumphant homecoming. Only it is not exactly that.

Jesus' relatives have heard of his success, but not witnessed it. They find it hard to reconcile this charismatic preacher, healer, exorcist, with the simple workman who had quietly grown in "wisdom, age and grace" in the household of Joseph and Mary.

Jesus is not, in fact, universally admired. His powerful words and works pose a threat to the established authorities. The scribes reject him, not because of honest questions or confusion, but because they are determined to retain power at all costs.

It must have been devastating for Mary and the others to hear Jesus declare that the strangers seated around Him were his true mothers and brothers. Jesus is not rejecting them. He is challenging them to reevaluate their relationship and reestablish it on the firmer foundation of a shared devotion to the will of God.

In reflecting on their experience, let us examine the ways that we may be challenged to reassess our own assumptions and practices about maintaining our relationship with Jesus.

Fr. Peter