

Yesterday morning my daughter was waiting to be picked up by her God parents for the weekend. She opened a conversation with me with the words: I can not wait 'till they are here. Its 9 o clock and they come at 9:30. Patience I replied, patience. She looked at me and said: But I was patient all yesterday! I can not wait anymore!

All I could think of was: This is a great opening for my sermon.

Why is patience and waiting so difficult?

It is so difficult because of the Green Monster. I think we are all familiar with the Green Monster, though we may use a different name for it. I call it the green Monster because I ran across the name in a children's book. Now the Green Monster is not confined to envy only.

The little green Monster shows up when we run out of patience, it lurks right behind the tail end of that last moment we are still able to wait patiently, and is ready to attack at a moments notice.

Remember the last time you had a luncheon scheduled with someone you like or need to see, or someone who wanted to see you.

You are sitting at the table and the appointed time is coming.

But the person is not on time.

Oh well, traffic might have been bad, lets wait 5 minutes.

Now its 5 minutes past, now what do we feel in this moment, can we wait another 5 minutes or are we already angry that the person is late?

Maybe we have been in the situation before and can give the person we are waiting for another 5 minutes, Maybe traffic was bad and there just was no parking to be found.

You all know how the story continues ... there is a time when we get angry, disappointed, tired of waiting; and that emotion is what I call the green monster.

We feel stood up, we feel confused, we are angry with the person for being late and so on and so forth, we all have our own stories about this. We all have our own private little green Monster.

And that green Monster will come out the next time we meet that person.

And I think if we would share our green Monster stories we could add a few hours to our Sunday service.

Last week Thursday was Ascension day, one of the pictures that describe the ascension depicts Jesus a few feet up in the air and the disciples clinging to his feet, unable to let go.

Their green Monsters are full in action. They seem to know exactly that Jesus' ascension will lead them out of their comfort zone. They have a hard time to let go, and why should they, have they not just experienced the greatest miracles and joys.

The underlying thought here is that the seed needs to go, to die in the ground, to germinate, to bring plenty of fruit at harvest time.

Jesus needs to ascend for the Holy Spirit to come.

One goes and one comes. Transformation!

The green Monster shows up when we don't allow the new to replace the old, when we cling to our expectations in the face of God changing us.

It shows up when we don't trust. It shows up when we know it better.

It shows up when waiting and patience are asked.

The green Monster wants it all and all right now.

Waiting A fruitful waiting for God's actions, allows us to see God at work.

Allows us to take care of other things we might not have paid attention to.

Waiting which allows us to look at the pieces.

Waiting turns fruitful when we allow God to point us in his direction-

As a practical example: next time you wait for someone and you feel you get angry or upset, start to pray for that person, start to pray for other persons too, talk to God.

Another practical example: The next time you wait, take a deep breath, relax, check in with yourself and feel where God might direct you next.

The disciples received comfort after a short waiting period, they tied up loose ends, picked up the pieces, filled their ranks and got ready for Pentecost.

Patience and fruitful waiting is what gets us ready for God's gifts, they teach us God's timing so that Christ's joy may be complete in us.

There is another side to waiting which is not fruitful; that is the waiting for Goudaux the person that never comes. That is the waiting in paralysis, that never brings fruit.

Waiting does never mean paralysis, not to do anything; fruitful waiting is an attentiveness to what God's spirit is calling us to do and our answer in action to God's will and not to our impatience.

Come Holy Spirit!