

Support Our Advertisers . . . Make it worth their Investment Tell them you saw their ad here!



Nelson Outdoor Power

19277 Conifer Ln
Council Bluffs
712-256-7686

www.NelsonOutdoorPower.com



TCS Computer Solutions

Providing home and business PC support!

PC Repair - Networking - Web-page Design - Database Design

(712) 366-1505

Romano



Start Right, Start Here.

Locally Owned & Operated

1851 Madison Ave.

Council Bluffs, IA



(712)329-3310



Join Us

Council #11296

Please Contact
Steve Kidder
Grand Knight
366-3401

Narmi Law

J. Joseph Narmi

Attorney at Law

229 South Main Street, Suite 200
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

712-323-8000

www.NarmiLaw.com

Want to see your Ad here? Call the Parish Office Center

323-1484



Barb Horan
(712) 310-7233
gabrielscorner.myshaklee.com

Ask me how switching brands helps Gabriel's Corner, a pro-life, crisis pregnancy center here in Council Bluffs

Good News!

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

These very direct words from God and the phrase that follows, “Speak to the heart of Jerusalem,” would be enough if they were the only Scriptural words we heard this weekend. They are straightforward and carry such weight.

Speaking through Isaiah to the suffering Hebrew people, God was promising an end to their suffering—even though it was not evident yet—telling them to prepare with joy for God’s coming. They were to prepare for a future that was “already but not yet”—it was present through God’s promise, but not yet in its fullness.

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Speaking to the heart is essential in giving comfort. My husband and I use a mantra during the Advent season—“Let’s be gentle with each other.” The holidays bring scheduling

December 4, 2011
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is 40:1–5, 9–11 / 2 Pt 3:8–14 / Mk 1:1–8

conflicts, multiple family commitments, and long to-do lists. When we’re stressed, we can wound each other with harsh words, impatience, and thoughtlessness. As we prepare for Christ’s birth—an “already, but not yet” experience—we’d all do well to remember comforting, gentle words in our closest relationships.

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.

Jesus inaugurated the kingdom of God, so it’s already here, but not yet in its fullness, which will occur with Jesus’ return. Great suffering, brokenness, and grief remain. The best way to live in this already-but-not-yet world is by acting with tender comfort toward all of God’s children. We never know how much hurt another is experiencing when we meet them. We *can* be the gentle presence of God—the great Comforter.

Janel Esker
sundaybulletins@liguori.org

© 2011 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Printed in U.S.A. Imprimatur: “In accordance with c. 827, permission to publish has been granted on June 24, 2011, by the most Reverend Robert J. Hermann, Vicar General, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission.” No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible with Revised New Testament and Revised Psalms* © 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the *New American Bible* may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.