

March 19, 2019

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

“Stop complaining.”

“Stop complaining, until you are ready to turn off the television and get off the couch.”

That was the bishop’s answer.

On Sunday, Bishop Mariann was responding to a parishioner who asked what wisdom she could share with someone who was feeling dejected and hopeless about the state of world affairs.

The bishop said she and her husband recently had a discussion about this very topic. Apparently, he had been going on and on about some of our elected leaders, until finally, the bishop said to her husband, “Stop complaining, until you are ready to turn off the television and get off the couch.”

Watching the news, there is so much to lament about what’s happening in the world right now: another mass shooting, this time in New Zealand; the ongoing and growing disparity between rich and poor; the rise of white nationalism; the way immigrants are treated at the border.

Looking around, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed, depressed, helpless... and, in frustration and anger, to throw up our hands and say, “Somebody ought to do something!”

But, then again, maybe that somebody is: us.

During this soul-searching season of Lent, maybe we should be asking ourselves, “What is the one thing I can do today to make things better?”

We cannot fix all the world’s problems. The issues are so big, and complicated, and ingrained. But, we can do something. One thing. We can write a letter to our congressman. We can visit a local mosque. We can join Bishop Mariann in standing up against gun violence. We can volunteer with our Refugee Ministry.

What is the one thing you can do today to make things better?

“Stop complaining, until you are ready to turn off the television and get off the couch.”

See you in church,
Andrew