

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
March 18, 2018
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jeremiah 31:31-34 + Hebrews 5:7-9 + John 12:20-33



Preaching by: Sister Eileen Ivory, OP

On Wednesday, National School Walkout Day, I had the privilege of standing outdoors in the cold with the students of Mount Saint Dominic Academy as we all listened to the tolling of the Motherhouse bell as it marked the lives of the 17 people killed a month ago in Parkland, Florida. We then moved back into the school where a somber prayer service took place. Each of the victims was acknowledged by name, a brief statement about their life, the refrain "We will remember" and the offering of a rose in their memory. Throughout it all there was a prevailing silence. I was moved to tears but also to hope. The young people of today have learned a hard lesson the hard way. They can no longer depend upon the adults to make the choices that will create a safe space. And so they've taken it on themselves to stand up and speak the truth. The refrain of Sunday's Responsorial Psalm is "Create a clean heart in me, O God." I think that perhaps that is exactly what God is doing for our young people. And so my prayer on National School Walkout Day for all our young men and women is that in addition to a clean heart God will also renew a steadfast spirit within them and that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide them.