

November 17-18, 2007

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malachi 3:19-20

Second Thessalonians 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19

With the aroma of roasting turkey wafting through our kitchens, with the Butterball Hotline beginning to overheat from frantic first-time cooks, with families preparing for nostalgic visits to extended family and relatives....this week's readings can certainly seem poor choices and party poopers. Malachi is all about fire and stubble, Thessalonians has Paul as a stern taskmaster chastising the do-nothing busybodies to get a life and be about useful work, and finally Luke has Jesus' description of what it means to be his disciple....in essence setting ourselves up as targets of hatred for/from those who don't desire discipleship. Lest we start to feel guilty about our upcoming festival and dump our pumpkin pies in the trash...these readings lend themselves to what we have been hearing for the last few weeks...things do come to an end...look around, read the signs...act before it is too late. The task of being an Intentional Disciple of Jesus Christ as a Roman Catholic Christian is not easy. It is not simply falling into line behind the loudest retro group out there nor is it relinquishing our free will and consciences to those who would happily turn us into Catholic versions of the Stepford wives. Movies and stories abound regarding the struggles of those desiring to do the 'right thing.' John F. Kennedy's 'Profiles in Courage' spoke of the internal strength of certain individuals who were capable of standing up in the face of the mob/crowd and acting nobly and rightly...and in many cases ruining their careers/lives in the process. Witness the struggle of 'whistle-blowers' in our own times, with their superiors frequently seeking to diminish their abilities or outright fire them for their perceived 'disloyalty'. We need only consider the silence of so many within our own Church who perhaps knew what was happening with criminally abusive priests...and who did nothing when people came to them seeking help. To be a Roman Catholic Disciple of Jesus Christ is not easy and each day brings fresh opportunities to stand up and be part of the struggle. For example: how do we hate the sin but love the sinner...especially when our culture makes it so easy to hate both? How do we agree to disagree without rancor and still find grace within each other? How apt are we to see ourselves as the people crucifying Christ rather than always seeing ourselves as the innocent person being crucified? Next weekend the Liturgical year comes to a close the Solemnity of Christ the King. Between now and then, these are good days in which to consider what our expectations may be in being a disciple of Jesus Christ. If the consequences of being in conversation with Jesus are that we will be hated and scorned...will we still him as worthwhile, as our King?

With our Parish Thanksgiving Dinner tomorrow (Monday) night, the smell of roasting turkeys is a literal reality! Thank you for joining us this weekend at our Corpus Christi Masses...and we hope to see you for dinner on Monday evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share so that all will have plenty. If you signed up to adopt and cook a turkey, they are available in the Kitchen refrigerators. Use one of the plastic trash bags to protect your car from errant juices. Even though we procured even more tables for this year, to be on the safe side, you may want to throw a card table in your trunk when you come to dinner tomorrow night. The Bulletin has all the details, please take one with you and read up on our Parish Feast as well as everything else that is coming up. As you gather with your own loved ones in settings large or small, remember, you are loved. Happy Thanksgiving! FKB