

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith In Laity Corner



28th Sunday Ordinary Times

Is. 25:6-10; Mt. 22:1-14

Storm Clouds Ahead

The 28th Week in Ordinary Times marks for most of us the Fall or autumn season as the Catholic Church moves towards the end of the liturgical year, our sights turn back to see what is the state of our life from last year to now. Yearly, we have to be amazed to see and hear how real are the words of Scripture... *“and there will be wars and rumor of wars.....”* There are so many storm clouds hovering---- floods, hurricanes, mass murders, mudslides, violence, fires, drug overdose, self-seeking politicians, financial gutting of the EPA and National health care program. New winds which can blow away the storm clouds we look towards –

“The Lord GOD will wipe away

the tears from all faces;” (Is. 25:7)

Yes, tears are flowing everywhere around us, there is the voice of people suffering some quietly, others through their actions and reactions. No one is escaping the wrath and fury of God. We are not listening to His voice, we suffer in our storms and turn our face from seeking Him or rather we hide among the clouds.

In the *storm’s* worse hour God wants to change our view of what could happen... Yet, it is only with the prayer that any change could possibly take place. Last week we

celebrated the 100 years since the Marian apparitions in Fatima, Portugal. Mary laid the responsibility upon those who are Catholic to daily pray the rosary.... For the world's conversion.

*“The reproach of his people he will remove
From the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.” (Is. 25:8)*

For us to see the change in our world, only prayers will matter. Yes, earnest prayer is the only way to see the end of our spiritual and then physical death as a people as a country, as a world.

“He will destroy death forever.” (Is. 25:8)

It is with God’s mercy we can hope to destroy death through our persistent prayers.

. Can we recognize when God is calling us? In the Gospel reading He called upon His chosen people and invited them to dine with Him in the Kingdom.

“A king who gave a wedding feast.....

Summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.” (Mt. 22:2-3)

These *chosen people* were not able to discern the importance of the call. So they remained busy about their ‘*more important business*’. How often do we find ourselves so busy about our affairs and forget to acknowledge and pray to God *thanking Him for the fact that we do have affairs to tend!!!* God does not easily give up on us, He always offer us another chance.....the story goes on ...

‘A second time he sent other servants, saying,

‘Tell those invited: “Behold, I have prepared my banquet.” (Mt. 22:4)

Are we going to refuse God’s invitation again? Do we realize that God’s is speaking to us through our church, true friends, or the teachings in the Biblical readings, or the calamity in our world?

*Some ignored the invitation and went away,
one to his farm, another to his business. (Mt. 22:5)*

We just missed another opportunity to have our storm clouds dissipate, rained out or blown away by the wind. How often do we miss God's graces, because we were just too busy to stop and help or to call a friend, to give to charity? Refusing God's invitation to enter your life, is just like the especially invited guests, who had other affairs to attend. The banquet hall of our hearts, just remained empty. In the final part, others are now invited and prepared to attend the party, their invitation came as *an afterthought*;... they were not the *especially chosen*, but since the *'special people'* did not appreciate it, others received a chance to attend.

"The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike." (Mt. 22:10)

Attend they did!! Their joy was now complete, newly chosen did not expect this wonderful invitation from God, but it was received with appreciation and joy; dressed for the occasion; they were now welcomed by the "King". What about those who missed the opportunity to have their clouds blown away.... They are still in the storms of life and did not realize that the storm and cloud breaker, came into their lives and went unaccepted. Yes, the storm clouds are ahead, yet our lack of prayer may cause us to remain in the storms without hope or the help of the storm calmer- God.

We, whom God has blessed must have concern for those less off than ourselves. Remember the plight of people Caribbean islands, southeast USA and now California and Sierre Leone in Africa. Mary our Mother is the Queen of Peace may she bring peace to our troubled world.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

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