

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, June 30, 2019

13th Sunday of Ordinary Times

Readings 1Kg.19:16,19-21; Lk.9:51-62

Passing The Torch

Immediately after Trinity Sunday, Catholics move to celebrate the Solemnity of the Feast of Corpus Christi. In the Body of Christ, we acknowledge that Jesus kept His promise that He would always be with us until the end of time. Most of us think of the conventional way, that He was to somehow remain physically walking and ministering to us here on earth; the way Jesus planned things, were not based on the average human understanding. Jesus left with us that through the power inherited by each priest, two common foods- bread and wine can be blessed and offered up with the words *“This is my Body”* and *“This is my Blood”* to become Jesus, when consumed His remains present in our bodies and in our souls a living presence among us and to walk with us in our daily life.

With the end of Corpus Christi the church weeks roll into Ordinary times. The readings this week speak about passing on power and the succession. The test and proof of a strong and sound leader is his/her ability to groom succession and to be able at a reasonable time to pass it along and leave. Far too often one can observe that leaders, refuse to give up a position, an office or role; very often our church leaders are the worse offenders. It is interesting when God

has a special task He can pull together people whom we least expect. This fact is always demonstrated down through history, In the Old Testament, an old man was to obey the unseen promise of God-Abraham; a stuttering man was selected to speak to the most powerful leader of that Time-Moses; a young virgin would humble to become the most elevated woman in heaven and Earth-Mary; an unlettered, stubborn fisherman was the choice to lead a new faith, and Paul, a strict Jew, will write Christians books now found in the bible. There are so many examples recorded in the Bible. A new prophet was to replace a former one, God took a man carrying out the ordinary tasks of life. This is how Elisha was called.

"Elisha, son of Shaphat, as he was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen." (1Kg. 19:19)

God calls us out of doing ordinary activities in life. To receive the torch from those planning to give-up leadership, one must have a willingness to accept the task. No one wants to give leadership to those who are unwilling. The same God calls us all, but we must make a decision to follow Him.

Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah." (1Kg.19:20)

He requires that we always do our best, with love. When God calls you, He empowers you with the skills and His Grace.

"Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak on him." (1Kg. 19:19)

The privilege of the Old Testament permitted one to tie-up loose ends. Elijah was allowed to say his 'goodbyes' to his family before he closed off business to do his mission work.

"Please, let me kiss my father and mother good-bye,

and I will follow you," Elijah answered. (1Kg. 19:20)

In the New Testament Jesus calls for us to take this helm and lead, accept the challenges of leadership. There is a request for us to

“Follow me.” (Lk. 9:59)

Let us not be fooled Jesus want us to know that following Him and assuming leadership will not bring us wealth or honor; He has assured us that the tasks are so important and difficult, there is no time to tie up loose ends, pausing to say ‘goodbye’.

“Let me go first and bury my father.” (Lk.9:59)

Jesus could not give us the time for longing to return to things of the past.

The mission with God's grace has to be acted upon quickly, whenever we accept the challenge. Jesus passes the torch to Peter, the torch is upon us now? Are we going to remain fearful, have second doubts or are we going to accept the mantle of leadership and to preach in His Name throughout all the earth? Jesus made this statement:

‘Jesus said, “No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Lk. 9:62)

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Let us pray at this time. We need to pray for migrant peoples around the earth; 35% of people around the world are on the move. May we begin to understand their struggle and may we seek opportunities to show our generosity.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly sharing written by Brenda Chee Wah

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Your remarks, questions and comments can be emailed to faithinlaity@gmail.com

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