

## Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

### Faith in Laity Corner



Monday, September 09, 2019

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Times

Readings Wis.9:13-19 Lk.14:25-33

## Spiritual Assessment

Over the years the word *'test'* has been replaced by the term *'evaluation'* and now the word *'assessment'* has become popular in the education sphere. Yet, they all are the same. It is understood that if there is the need to move up the *'employment ladder'* there will be some type of review or assessment to ascertain if the candidate has the adequate skills to handle the job tasks, in relative calm times and of course, under stress. Life will *'test you'*, and this is part of the human existence... we are all under assessment. Today remembering not only the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinal times but on this date, we recall the birthday of our Blessed Mother.

This week, let us review our *'spiritual assessment'*. Everyone *'worth their salt'* will take time out do examine themselves and where their actions in life are leading them. Important is preparation for one's assessment or test. (not so?) To do just service to yourself, one has to be honest and willing to admit faults and recognize personal shortcomings.

*"For the deliberations of mortals are timid,  
and uncertain our plans." (Wis. 9:14)*

Being honest about personal shortcomings, and admitting where we lack, permits forward movement.

*"For the corruptible body burdens, the soul  
and the earthly tent weighs down the mind with its many concerns." (Wis.9:15)*

Limited as we are by human frailties, our years on this earth coupled with worries and troubles to assail us and cause us sleepless nights. Jesus was clear about the assessment process, as being ongoing. We have to set our priorities correct, our focus must be on giving God top dues. There is the demand, that no other person should be the source and center of our life, -but God.

*"Anyone comes to me without hating his father- and mother,  
wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life,  
he cannot be my disciple." (Lk. 14:26)*

Our personal assessment will be based on what we place as of paramount value, it certainly cannot be about the things obtained during our life or the people we connect with; however, it has to be our connection with God as being the most important. Spiritual tests will inquire if we are taking our cross and following Jesus; leaving it for others to carry for us; maybe refusing to take one at all or make a 'grand show' of cross-bearing. Our test will prevail throughout our lives and the final judge will not accept bribes, nor will He fall asleep.

I oftentimes wonder how many people take spiritual assessment seriously, there is nothing on this earth that could matter more than what happens to our soul eternally.

*"Whoever does not carry his cross and  
come after me cannot be my disciple." (Lk. 14:27)*

Yet, we spend so much time listening to our iTunes, when you can now pray the rosary, Divine Mercy Novena, hear the Mass at the touch of your phone. If we are not going to put all of our daily activities before God, how could we expect Him to take us seriously? There is a need for us to put in place our preparation for the final spiritual assessment (tests), which will be graded at the point of our death.

If we claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, our life has to demonstrate that He is first, that a conscious decision has been made that we are not going to live without His blessings and as a disciple, we want to ensure that we have enough spiritual marks to make it to heaven. Let us remember the requirements for discipleship

*"In the same way, every one of you who does not renounce  
all his possessions cannot be my disciple."(Lk.14:33)*

***We can give our prayers, support, and money to our families on the Bahamas.***

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*Weekly readings are taken from USCCB-Daily*