

# Trinity News

## **Pentecost 25 The Ego and Public Criticism of People**

As we draw nearer to the presidential election here in May next year we are aware of the pressures already being brought to bear in behalf of the candidates. This is not unusual in that the United States presidential election is a year away and yet very much underway! The election of people to positions of power and influence always brings out the best and the worst in us.

The **best** is seen in our endeavours to secure candidates and results that give us people of ability and character and reliability. But what about the **worst**? Unfortunately, we tend to begin with the negatives of the potential candidates. Glaring faults tend to rule people out, though that is not always the case. As an *extranjero* it is not proper for me to comment about the qualities of candidates here, and particularly the negative aspects of their presentation in public and private. But what we're really looking for in leadership should be a general concern for all of us.

We are drawing near to the season of Advent in the Church Year, and that liturgical season has a strong element of self-examination in it. It is not a self-examination for the sake of baring our soul in public, but to clear the way so that we can see more clearly what we really need to be now and in the time ahead.

**What we should look for in leadership is what we should look for in ourselves. The weaknesses we see in others are sometimes only blown-up versions of what we cannot face in ourselves.** People who pride themselves on "always telling the truth" are usually not so brutally frank about themselves. It is in fact almost impossible to be completely honest about ourselves. We admire those who get closest to it, but achieving it ourselves is another matter.

**We look for, or long to be, stable in ourselves, fair and courteously frank in everything that we do, self-reliant, faithful in loving at every level of relationships, sensitive to the real needs of others, and at peace with God and ourselves and others.** We all have gifts and we want to use them in the best services we can offer to God and humanity in the course of our lives. Jesus warns us in the Gospels that we should always be prepared to give an account of ourselves and be ready to face the compassionate judgment of God at any time in our journey. Any mark we leave in the world will depend a great deal on the hallmarks of our life, the characteristics and actions that mark out our distinctive place in the world.

The space between sunrise and sunset is there in creation for us to use to the best of our abilities before we rest at night. We measure time, but the measure of time that we have been given in any day is always the same. When we are quiet inside ourselves because we have allowed some space for ourselves and for God, then we can best deal with the negatives that intrude upon our space every day. We can also make our best assessments of what is before us and what we have experienced in the immediate past and further back in our time. Let us diminish unwarranted intrusions on our space and avoid doing it to others. Now that would enlarge our own peace and give more space to others. To give up on this is a counsel of despair, devoid of hope. We yearn to do better and be more at ease, paddling in a pool of peace.

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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### THIS WEEK:

#### **Monday.**

- Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30pm, Parish Office
- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory

#### **Wednesday-Thursday.**

**HOLIDAY - APEC Summit**

### TO PLAN:

#### **November 22. Sunday.**

*Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 7:00pm, Santuario de San Antonio Parish. Dinner follows.*

#### **November 26. Thursday.**

*Thanksgiving Dinner, 7:00pm, Holy Trinity Parish Hall.*

*Please join us!*

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:**

Daniel 7:9-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:1-8; John 18:33-37 OR Mark 11:1-11