

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 45.
November 05, 2023
Proper 26

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost: Jesus Wants Coherence Between Our Faith and Life.

The texts of this Sunday speak to us of bad examples, false images, the search for promotion, corruption, abuse of power: themes that we know well. We only have to read the newspapers and watch television to realize that the Word of God also applies to our world today. Jesus calls people who act to be noticed: “hypocrites”, “actors”. He invites us to remove the masks and stop acting. Life is not a permanent Halloween!

Christians are easily charged with hypocrisy. The standards set for us are so high that none of us can live up to them – unless we turn to God for help. Which is the whole point, isn't it? What, then, are we to do? The first thing we must do is to admit that there is a tremendous gap between what we are and what we ought to be. We need first, above all else, recognize the truth about ourselves and then, asking for God's mercy, set about amending our lives.

In today's second reading, we are given the example of St. Paul who loves and serves his community in Thessalonica. This very beautiful text provides us with a remarkable portrait of the true pastor: He is “full of gentleness, like a mother with her babies”. He is filled with “affection” for them, wanting to give them “not only the Gospel” but everything that he himself is. He toils and tires night and day so as not to be a burden to others. Jesus also tells us in this Sunday's Gospel: Stop giving yourself high-sounding titles, don't look for privileges, personal advantages.” These titles create a misleading appearance, behind which often hides an abysmal void.

The authority of Jesus is exclusively an authority of service and liberation: he forgives, he heals, he puts people back on their feet, he gives a second chance, he opens a future. This allows us to move forward with joy. “I tell you this so that your joy may be complete.” (John 15, 11) Just watch those who meet Jesus blossom: the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, the blind, the lepers... It is by practicing the service authority proposed by Christ that we will give a positive image of God to the people around us.

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A bishop once told the priests of his diocese: "In every parish there should be prominently displayed a large apron as a symbol of the service that Christians must render to others. The apron is the only liturgical garment mentioned by Jesus. St. John tells us that on the evening of Maundy Thursday, during the first Eucharist, the Lord put on an apron and began to wash the feet of his apostles!

Authentic religiosity, the one God wants, is only made possible by humility, which is manifested in service and self-giving to others, and not as a ladder to climb on to feel superior over others, or as an instrument of self-gain. let us ask God to grant us the virtues of humility and veracity which will enable us to live accordingly to our faith and to practice what we preach.



Coming up:

- Nov. 11 Wedding, 1:30 pm.
- Nov. 12 Remembrance Sunday, 9:30 am.
- Nov. 19 Wedding, 3:00 pm.
- Nov. 19 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service hosted by Santuario de San Antonio, 7:00 pm.
- Nov. 30 Wedding, 2:30 pm.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK:

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 6 November. William Temple was born in 1881 and baptised on this day in Exeter Cathedral. His father was Bishop of Exeter and later Archbishop of Canterbury. William excelled in academic studies and developed into a philosopher and theologian of significance. After ordination, he quickly made a mark in the Church and at forty became a bishop. Within a decade he was Archbishop of York. He is especially remembered for his ecumenical efforts and also for his concern with social issues, contributing notably to the debate which led to the creation of state welfare provision after the Second World War. He died in 1944, two years after his translation to the See of Canterbury.

The Saints & Martyrs of England, 8 November. The date when Christianity first came to England is not known, but there were British bishops at the Council of Arles in the year 314, indicating a Church with order and worship. Since those days, Christians from England have shared the message of the good news at home and around the world. As the world-wide fellowship of the Anglican Communion developed, incorporating peoples of many nations and cultures, individual Christian men and women have shone as beacons, heroically bearing witness to their Lord, some through a simple life of holiness, others by giving their lives for the sake of Christ.

Tact, let us recollect,
is sympathy in operation.
[Charles Henry Brent,
Adventure for God, 1920]