



Week 2: Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time | Sunday, October 11, 2020

Gospel: MT 22:1-14

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people
in parables, saying,

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king
who gave a wedding feast for his son.

He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.

A second time he sent other servants, saying,

'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet,
my calves and fattened cattle are killed,
and everything is ready; come to the feast."'

Some ignored the invitation and went away,
one to his farm, another to his business.

The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged and sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready,
but those who were invited were not worthy to come.

Go out, therefore, into the main roads
and invite to the feast whomever you find.'

The servants went out into the streets
and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to meet the guests,
he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment.

The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it
that you came in here without a wedding garment?'

But he was reduced to silence.

Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet,
and cast him into the darkness outside,
where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'

Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Reading 1: Isaiah 5:1-7

Reading 2: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

INTRODUCTION

The most important thing you can do in life is love God – with all your heart, soul, mind! Do this one thing and everything else will begin to fall in place. Where does it start? By accepting God’s invitation – fully, generously, actively, with love. ‘Many are called – few are chosen’

LAUDATO SI’ CONNECTION

p244. In the meantime, we come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God, for “if the world has a beginning and if it has been created, we must enquire who gave it this beginning, and who was its Creator”. Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION & DISCUSSIONS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7: Images of a banquet are used to sum up the blessings that God’s people will experience on the last day. Notice that this heavenly banquet is prepared not only for the people of Israel. At this feast, the “veil” or all that separates us from God will be lifted and the spider’s “web” that imprisons us will be brushed aside. Tears, guilt and shame will be replaced with joy.

The image of a banquet is one of the most common images used in the Bible to describe the Kingdom of God or heaven. Why do you think this is so? What makes a banquet a suitable image of heaven?

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20: This concludes our month-long series of readings from Philippians. While Paul is incarcerated, some of the Philippians send him gifts to help him endure the hardships of prison life. While grateful for the gifts, Paul says he has learned to be content with both famine and feast.

Turn the statements from St. Paul into personal reflections – what challenges you? Do we know how to live in humble circumstances? Have we learned the secret of being well fed – and of being hungry? Of living in abundance – and understanding need? In times of distress, can you see how God strengthens you?

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14: Like our first reading, the kingdom of God is imaged as a banquet to which all are invited to attend. Jesus continues to call the Pharisees and the religious leaders to conversion. The invitees refuse to come. Some even abuse and kill the servants delivering the invitations. The piece about the ‘wedding garment’ underlines the importance of not only saying ‘yes’ to Christ. It is one thing to present oneself for Baptism; it is another thing to live daily the Christian way of life. We must “clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience” (Colossians 3:12).

LIVING THE GOSPEL – The One Thing – Answering God’s Invitation

1. Read aloud: “Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.” What makes attending a wedding special to you?
2. Think about the garments of baptism, the garments of a wedding. Consider the connections to baptism. What does living out your baptism mean to you?
3. Jesus invites us to the banquet of His love. Share a time when you experienced God inviting you into a relationship with Him. Have you, in different circumstances accepted, rejected or neglected God’s invitation to you? Was there a specific person who invited you into a relationship with God?
5. We are called to respond to the invitation with hearts adorned with love of God and neighbor. Who is God calling you to invite?
6. Do you believe everyone is invited to have a place in God’s Kingdom? What do you think constitutes a refusal or ‘no’ to Jesus’ invitation? Break open the challenge – and the reward – that Pope Francis asks us to consider on the journey to the “heavenly feast”. (*LS – p244*)

October Prayer for Respect Life Month

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living, To you do we entrust
the cause of Life:
Look down, O Mother,
Upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed
to be born,
Of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
Of men and women who are victims of
brutal violence,
Of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son
May proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty
and love to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace to accept that
Gospel as a gift ever new,
The joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
And the courage to bear witness to it
Resolutely, in order to build;
together with all people of good will,
a civilization of truth and love,
To the praise and glory of God, Creator and
lover of life. Amen.