Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

09.15.19

***THE LOST KEY***

Deacon Jim Haaf

A few weeks ago I lost a very important key. I use the key two times a day. The first time I needed to use the key, it was in my possession. When it was needed the second time, the key was nowhere to be found. I stopped what I was doing and retraced my steps to see if I could find the key. By the end of the day I had not found the key. That night I prayed to St. Anthony and asked him to help me find it, hoping that next day it would return. On the way to work the next morning, I included more prayers to St. Anthony along with my rosary. That day I retraced my entire day from the first use to the second use and still no key. Just when I was about to give up, the key was returned. I was overjoyed and very thankful that the key was back. Yes, I did remember to thank St. Anthony for his help.

On this 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time St. Paul tells us that he was an unbeliever but that Jesus displayed all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him. We all know a lost sheep- someone who has left the faith and is looking for something. Just like St. Paul says, Jesus has patience and is waiting for them. All of us need that patience too. Be the example. Pray for them every day. Turn them over to Mary. Father Larry Richards says that he has never lost anyone that he has given to Mary. If you went to the Tim Francis presentation you remember the picture of his mother praying for him on the day of his wedding. Tim says that prayer will eventually bring them back, even though you may not know that they came back…keep St. Monica in mind. How many years did she pray for St. Augustine? He came to the Church and God made him a great teacher and Doctor of the Church. The Holy Spirit will guide the lost back and God will let them know what his plan for them is. Some become Doctors of the Church, some become great donors and contributors and some even become deacons. I happen to know someone personally that happened to. ☺

Today’s Gospel tells us what happens when the lost sheep is found. The shepherd sets the sheep on his shoulders with great joy. When he arrives home he calls his friends and neighbors together and says to them, “*Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep*.”

Perhaps all of us are searching for something. Do we need some comfort or relief? Try reconciliation. The Gospel tells us that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. After reconciliation receive the Eucharist. Come to adoration or just come into Church to visit Jesus.

Are you looking for truth? Do we continue to believe or get caught up in culture? Have you abandoned truth just to get along? Do you believe that truth is still true even if no one else believes it? Is a lie still a lie even if everyone else believes it? How satisfied are you with your faith development? What corrections are you willing to make to realign your life?

When I lost that important key, I found it through prayer. Continue to pray that you will find what you are looking for. Invite someone struggling with faith to come to church. Offer to pick them up and even to feed them. At the appropriate time share with them your faith witness. Come now to the Father who waits patiently with open arms to welcome you and everyone you bring with you. The Father is ready to throw the lost on his shoulders and rejoice at their return.

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit…Amen!**

Our Lady Queen of the Rosary

Pray for us!