Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time

09.01.19

***PRECIOUS STATE OF GRACE***

Fr. Viviano

As we begin our Sunday celebrating the Lord’s Day I will say I am always grateful for the Rosary before Mass. Perhaps you can do a lot more digging into Our Lady of Fatima – the message of Fatima. Our Lady appeared in Portugal in 1917. If you do not know about the apparition of Fatima I encourage you to get into it and find out more about it. Many of the prophecies she spoke about are taking place in the world today. Our Lady of Fatima… one of the things she told the children of Fatima to do is to “Pray the Rosary…pray the rosary every day…every day.” Great graces and great blessings come through the intercession of Our Lady, through the power of the Holy Rosary.

One of the things I get anxious about sometimes is that there is so much I want you to know about the faith – there is so much we do not know. One of the things that I have heard the most about over the past couple weeks, is the Eucharist, and being in a “state of grace”… a state of grace, free from grave sin. One of the things I have spoken about is what constitutes a “grave sin”. One example is intentionally missing Mass on Sunday, not keeping the Lord’s Day holy. It is a grave sin and we should not receive Communion until we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To receive the Eucharist in the state of grave sin is called a ‘sacrilege’. Sacrilege also a grave sin. It is a darkening upon our soul. I say that because it seems like, not everyone, but many are oblivious to many of the teachings of the Church, especially this one…we are not in tune to the FUNDAMENTAL TEACHINGS of Holy Mother Church in regard to the holy reception of the Eucharist and the Mass.

And I ask whose fault is it? I say it is the Church’s fault. I say it is the priests fault because over time especially after Vatican ll in the sixty’s, somehow we stopped teaching the DOCTRINES of the Church. I am not sure why. I certainly have my own opinions on that. We stopped proper teaching, and that was no service to you… that is not pastoral care of our people. How are you to embrace, love and live your faith if you do not know it?

My prayer always is for you to learn (more about) your faith and one of the ways you can do that do is by using the instrument that we have here FORMED.org. If you do not have the password for it you can readily get it. FORMED is a cornucopia for learning of our Catholic faith. If someone studied FORMED.org for a couple months, one could really become pretty well versed in our faith if you really put your mind to it.

So many different things I want to talk about, and one of the things I mentioned at St. Joseph, that we will also do here (again) is “*Ask Father V”* which we will put in the bulletin. You write down a question that you want to ask for example about Mass or anything about the faith and put it in the collection basket or send it to me through email. I will answer it and post it. Most certainly if you have a question about our faith someone else does too and one of the best ways we can learn together is by doing it this way… “Ask Father V”. I urge you to do that.

I also want to mention that last week we handed out these Holy Mass papers from the mystic writings of Catalina Rivas, a current, living person with the stigmata. We handed out over 300 hundred of them at St. Joseph’s and many, many of them here, so many that we ran out of them. So here are more in case you did not get one and especially for our guests you may not have been here last week. Please pick one up, they are free and take it home to read. It is great spiritual reading about the Mass.

So today in the Gospel we hear Jesus using that metaphor of the wedding banquet. The theme in the Gospel is humility. When you get that wedding invitation you don’t take the prime spot, right? How many of us go to weddings, especially if you do not know the family that well- you may go table to table looking and wondering ‘hey where do they have me seated’. We might see friends and say, “Hey we’re sitting over here”. Why don’t you all come over here?’ Certainly you do not go up to the head table, the table of honor and expect to be seated there…humility.

We think about the sons of Zebedee, James and John and remember that their mother went to Jesus and said “Lord, I ask you to give my sons James and John when you enter your Kingdom one to the right and one to the left. Jesus said “Do you know what you are talking about? Do you know what you are asking me? Can they drink from the chalice that I am going to drink from?” Jesus said they will and that chalice was the chalice of martyrdom, that was their mission in life but then Jesus said, “You can’t ask me that. That is not my job, that is reserved for my Father. He will tell you where they need to be.”

The invitation - (and) we all have an invitation to the wedding banquet by our Christian baptism. We have the invitation in our hands, but always remember that invitation does not mean we will automatically get into the banquet. Remember last week and the week before when they were knocking on the door “Lord it’s us…hello buddy!” And Jesus says, “I don’t know you!” “Hey remember us? We talked and laughed and were hanging out together?” And Jesus replies, “No! I don’t know you! I don’t know who you are!” They had the invitation but they could not use it because they had not taken care of the invitation. How do we take care of the invitation? How do you guard this sacred invitation? By living our Catholic life…going to confession, attending Mass, receiving the Eucharist in a state of grace, praying the rosary, spiritual reading, doing good works with unconditional love, participating the sacramental life. You and I have this great gift of the Catholic faith. We have the Mother Church, the “mother ship”…the mother ship that leads to heaven. We all just need to do our part to take care of the invitation and live good, holy Catholic lives and we will be on our way.

So may we be humble in all of our endeavors in our faith, and thank God every day for the gift of our faith, as I thank him for all of you here this morning. Wherever you are at on the spectrum of faith you are here…you are here and because of what takes place on that altar of sacrifice, when God meets man in the Eucharist. Because of the Eucharist, there is GRACE that flows through this church. And those who receive the Eucharist in a state of Grace, that Eucharistic Grace will radiate to those who are in our path.

May God bless us always!

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

***Our Lady Queen of the Rosary***

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***Pray for us!***