Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

09.29.19

***OPEN MY HEART LORD!***

Fr. Viviano

Together we enter the Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

We see in the First Reading a depiction of a person who becomes totally immersed in the world… totally immersed in his riches and sumptuousness of his life. He became totally self-absorbed. In the Gospel we see this rich man was not even willing to help someone in his doorstep who was suffering. Again, as I said last week when I say “rich man” it is “not so much” people with a lot of money, but it is ***avarice,*** which is *the root of all evil* - which is the love of money…making money one’s God. This love of money blinds us to what is around us. And “this love” of something other than God, just does not go for money. It could be anything of this life - it could be beauty…the beauty of a woman, the handsomeness of a man… it could be that one becomes enamored with one’s self. It could be athletics…a tremendous athlete, who feels that they have a talent that affords them a sense of “godliness”. It could be intellect; someone very bright. I see that a lot these days since we have a very educated society. It can be a very tricky, slippery slope to fall in love with one’s intellect. The pride and the ego become enormous.

All these things help us to have a myopic view…a very narrow view. It is as though we are looking with this myopic view into a mirror… and we see nothing but ourselves in the reflection. We can become our own god… We can lose sight of those around us who are in need… We can certainly lose sight of our need for Almighty God: The giver of all gifts.

We see in the Gospel today this rich man was so enamored with his wealth and his riches that he could not even see poor Lazarus at his door step. Lazarus, who even the dogs would come and lick his sores, that he was in such bad shape.

And in the Gospel too, the rich man pleads with Abraham. “Send someone to my father’s house. I have five brothers I think “they are a mess too”. They are headed down the wrong road. Send someone to warn them. Abraham said, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets they will not listen to anyone else”. “No, but if you send someone from the dead they will repent!” Abraham said, “No… this will not move them either”.

I have said it once and I will say it again, that if Jesus Christ in all his glory would hover over all of New York City for all the country to see, there would be a certain percentage that absolutely would not believe. They would not believe because the have become so immersed in their own self, that they cannot get over themselves; to see the risen Lord would not affect or resonate with them. That is a sad state to be in. It can happen to any of us.

And I will say this, that I have been very blessed to be here in Osage County. I have been here seven years plus and to see the goodness of the people, especially toward those who are in need. I think of a couple of situations…fundraisers etc., where people were in great need and how the community came to assist them by their presence, by their blessings of their treasures toward them, by their genuine concern for them. To me that speaks to the heart of this community and I think that is a great blessing for this community to have – and certainly, to pass that onto your children.

So let us remember, that whatever God blesses us with we are not the ‘owners’ of it but we are the “administrators” of it. We are not the owners but the administrators …caretakers… for a short while. Let us ask God for continued grace to clarity of mind, clarity of perspective, as we thank him for all the blessings in our life…to have an open mind and an open heart, to see the Lazarus’s at our doorstep; to be able to minister to them in love and in charity.

**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!