

Homily NOTES

National Vocation Awareness Week 2015—Homily Points

Monday, November 2

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

Wisdom 3:1-9

- “As gold in the furnace, he proved them”
- “As sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.”
- “Grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.”

God's direction is for our good, and our vocation becomes the way we receive and live the grace of our discipleship in service of others. This helps us grow into the person God calls us to be.

Psalm 23

- “He guides me along right paths.”

** Do I listen for God's direction and look for his guidance?

Romans 6:3-9

- “If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.”

** The call to die to self and to follow the self-giving example of Christ.

John 6:37-40

- “I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.”

** Am I open to the “will” of God for my life? Do I believe God sends us through our vocation into the world?

Tuesday, November 3

Romans 12:5

- “Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them.”

There are many ways we are called to serve others: ministry, teaching, acts of mercy, etc.

** As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to use the gifts we are given in service to others.

Luke 14:15-24

- God invites to share in the banquet.
 - Many have an excuse not to come.
- ** With regard to God's specific call to each of us: what can be my excuses to avoid his invitation to follow him?

Wednesday, November 4

Romans 13:8-10

- “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- ** Do I see the living out of my vocation as a way of loving and caring for the good of my neighbor? How is God calling me to live out this commandment of loving my neighbor?

Luke 14:25-33

- The importance of carrying the cross as we follow Jesus.
- Christ must be the foundation of my life.

**Following God's call in life will often times have real challenges, it is in these challenges that we meet the cross.

The Feast of St. Charles Borromeo

- "If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honor."
- "If a tiny spark of God's love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out... Stay quiet with God."

** These quotes from St. Charles Borromeo, focus on the importance of caring for and nurturing the call of God. Quiet reflection as well as devoting ourselves to the service of others are great ways to prepare oneself to hear God's call.

Thursday, November 5

Romans 14:7-12

- "None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself."
- We see the call to serve one another in the Spirit.
- "So [then] each of us shall give an account of himself [to God]."

** We recognize that the gifts we are given are meant to be shared with others and we are accountable for how we share those gifts.

Luke 15: 1-10

Two Parables:

1. Searching for the one lost sheep
 2. Searching for the one lost coin
- God goes after the lost and seeks to restore the relationship.
 - There is great joy in the finding of what was lost.

** God is always searching for us long before we search for him. God also allows us through our vocations to be part of his search for the lost and bringing them home.

Friday, November 6

Romans 15:14-21

- "Be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles."
- St. Paul encourages the true missionary spirit of going out to all nations.
- Pope Francis calls us in the New Evangelization to be "a community of missionary disciples."

Luke 16:1-8

- "And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently."
- How do we allow the generous love and mercy of God to influence the way in which we treat other people? Do we recognize our responsibility to do what is right and just with the resources we have been given?

** A challenge to a radical individualism and autonomy: we belong to God and the gifts and abilities we have are given for the glory of his name.

Saturday, November 7

Romans 16:3-9, 16:22-27

- Community is formed by the work of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of the Gospel. Paul sends greetings to those who have received the Word and supported his ministry.

** Do I make connections with others by giving witness to how Christ has blessed my life?

Luke 16:9-15

- “No servant can serve two masters.”
 - “The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones.”
- ** The call to discipleship and our individual call to a vocation within the Church will always involve surrendering to the will of God and detachment from worldly concerns. We live in the world but strive to place all that we have and all that we are at the service of the Kingdom.
- ** This gets to the most basic choice, the fundamental option—do we serve God or something else?