

October 18, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

Today's gospel is one we can all identify with. Haven't all of us been asked to do something by a co-worker or family member and made either of the responses of the two sons? If we've learned enough from our experiences, hopefully, we're more often the son who responded positively after thinking it over! Jesus upbraids these Jewish leaders for not believing John the Baptist when tax collectors and prostitutes did. Seeing these people and many others following John and Jesus still didn't open their eyes. Seems as though the point Jesus is trying to bring home to the chief priests and elders is that their actions (and ours) matter more than our words.

The second reading today is from Paul's letter to the Philippians 2.1-11 and is one of the most beautiful and challenging in the entire bible. He begins by encouraging this fledgling community of believers: "Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing...humbly regard others as more important than yourself. Then in verse 6, he poetically describes Jesus' death and resurrection and being glorified by the Father because of his obedience.

I woke up with one of the songs we've often sung going through my head and heart, "In Every Age."

"In every age, O God, you have been our refuge. In every age, O God, you have been our hope.

Teach us to make use of the time we have. Teach us to be patient even as we wait. Teach us to embrace our every joy and pain. To sleep peacefully and to rise up strong."

As we head into the seventh month of the pandemic, this song reminds me of our need to learn from the limitations the virus subjects us to and to hope, as Jesus did, for a fuller life on the other side of this experience. We have seen examples of such a great outpouring of generosity, including from some of the youngest members of our country. We are commemorating the World Day of Refugees and Immigrants today, who surely need at least our prayers as they are stranded far from home as well as refugees forced from their homes by fires, flooding, drought and eviction. Are there some additional ways we can respond to the invitation we've heard in the gospel, "Go out and work in the vineyard today"?

May we, like Francis, listen and then act.

Peace, Sr. Seral