

Life in the Spirit Series – Week 5 – Outline for Homily – 110904

WEEK 5 – OUTLINE FOR HOMILY

The Sunday Readings – The Word of God from Scripture – 23RD Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 33:7-9 The Lord called the prophet Ezekiel a watchman for his people because He sent him to speak to people his words of lie that have the power to set us free from evil and self-absorption. Today, the Lord sends as watchmen to his people the pastors of our church, religious women and men, lay women and men, who welcome the Word of God in Jesus and let that Word change them. Without the living Word of God, we human beings are inclined to lose our way, following the impulses of our flesh, into dead ends. Once we have tasted the new life the living Word of God brings, the Lord expects us to proclaim it, to share that Word with people. If we don't they may die still stuck in their evil and self-absorption and we will share some responsibility for their eternal suffering separated from God. If we do our best to share the Word of God with people and they reject it, then their refusal will be their loss, but we will be at peace.

Romans 13:8-10 Paul makes it clear that the Ten Commandments define some of the symptoms of a life lived in self-absorption, oblivious to the lives and value of other people. Like a doctor trying to diagnose a sick patient, when we observe ourselves breaking a commandment, we know that our humanity is sick or breaking down and in need of the divine physician. Paul defines a healthy human being as one in whom is found the love of God, who loves every single human being without condition. We know that God's love is in us when we also love every single person, no matter their appearance. We love them when we do no harm and – as Jesus told us to do – even pray for enemies and ask God to bless those who do us hurt.

Matthew 18:15-20 Matthew reports Jesus' teaching on the love of neighbour that goes with courage to the person who sins against us to point out the fault to them. Jesus gives a very practical formula for doing this, for practicing divine love. First we talk to the person privately. If they won't listen, we talk to them with one or two other trusted and discrete people. If they still won't listen, we tell the church; this means going to our pastor, a work group or group of friends, a prayer group, or even simply our family – any significant group to which both we and the offender belong. If they still won't listen, then Jesus tells us to treat them like a Gentile and a tax collector. Jesus ignored such people until they showed a willingness to listen, to receive the Word of God, to repent of their sin and change, like Zacchaeus. Then Jesus tells us how to live in sync with God: by taking care to be of one mind and heart together; then what we decide – what we bind or loose – will reflect the will of God, and our prayers will be in accord with the will of God.

A. So, what is happening in your life, in your family, in your place of work or school, in your friends?

- ❖ We are troubled by personal things, events around us, troubles in the world, in nature.....
- ❖ God the Father, the Son – Jesus – and the Holy Spirit are always loving, giving....
- ❖ The blockages are in us... but we feel God is absent; so we ask God to come.

B. Introductory Explanation

1. At every Eucharist we claim Christ as our Saviour and his promise of the Holy Spirit (Lk 11:13)
 - ❖ Today we repent – commit ourselves to Christ Jesus – renounce Satan – profess faith in God
 - ❖ We will ask the Father to remove our obstacles and immerse us in the Holy Spirit.
 - ❖ Jesus gives the Holy Spirit – we lay hands on you for Jesus – you ask and expect the Holy Spirit.
 - ❖ The Holy Spirit fills us and gives each person what they need. Turn to the Lord and receive.
2. How to receive the new life
 - ❖ The Holy Spirit is the Chief Operations Officer of the Father and the Son in the universe
 - ❖ The gift of new life is principally characterized by a new personal connection to God:
 - ❖ A new bond of love with the heavenly Father – a new personal connection with Jesus.

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- ❖ New awareness of the gentle movements of the Holy Spirit in the depths of your mind's thoughts or of your heart's emotions, in the depth of the inner movements of your soul.
 - ❖ The Holy Spirit brings a participation in the vitality and life of love between the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.
 - ❖ This can bring joy, peace, love, gratitude, eagerness to serve, adoration and praise, and many other inner dispositions of openness and docility to the presence and work of God.
 - ❖ The Holy Spirit also gives as part of our new life in God various gifts for particular service to the Church, the Body of Christ, to spread the Gospel, make God known and loved in the world, and develop the faith community life of the Church.
 - ❖ New life in God, in the Holy Trinity, is like an infinite ocean of inviting water with the safety of a swimming pool and attractive gentle waves.... To really enjoy it, you must accept to get into the water, to wade in, or dive in, or jump in. If you stay on the side, then not much will happen in you and not much will change.
3. Some important right attitudes
- ❖ Relax. It's easier to receive with an open hand.
 - ❖ Don't worry about being self-conscious. We're all in this together. We're God's family.
 - ❖ The Lord loves you and wants you to experience his love in new way.

C. The prayer session – Repentance, Profession of Faith, and Invocation of the Holy Spirit

Invocation of the Holy Spirit on the Assembly

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, aware that you always gather us in the presence of our heavenly Father and of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Fill us with your light to know the Father's will, with your strength to make it our own as Jesus did, and with love to live it in our lives. Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for You are God, Lord and Giver of life, united to the Father and the Son. Do not allow us to be confused by ignorance, corrupted by fear, or misled by preferring anything else instead of your guidance. Unite us to Jesus and to all those who make up his living Body the Church in the bond of peace and in the love You pour into us from the Father and the Son. Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

Personal Prayer of Repentance and Commitment to Jesus Christ

Lord, Jesus Christ, I want to belong to you from now on. I want to be free from the dominion of darkness and the rule of Satan, and I want to enter with the trust of a little child into your kingdom and I want to belong with all my heart to your people.

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. *(Take a few moments to ask His forgiveness for anything particular that is on your conscience.)*

Please forgive me.

I now turn from everything which I know is wrong and I will avoid everything that leads me to wrongdoing. I offer my life to you, and I promise to obey you as my Lord.

Thank You that You died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank You that You offer me forgiveness and the gift of Your Spirit. I now receive that gift. Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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Renewal of Baptismal Promises – Renunciation of Sin, Evil, and Satan – Roman Missal

Renewal of Baptismal Promises – Profession of Faith – Roman Missal

Heavenly Father, Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, and Pope Benedict XVI have all asked us to pray for a New Pentecost on the Church of your Beloved Son Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world. In obedience to their call, we humbly ask You to pour out your Holy Spirit into our hearts and immerse our whole Parish, all our members and families, and the Church of Montreal – immerse us anew in the love and power of your Holy Spirit that we may eagerly respond to Jesus' call to follow Him, gladly carry our cross daily, and proclaim with joy and gratitude the Good News to all the Earth. Glorify yourself in us, that all may welcome salvation in Jesus your Son our Lord, in whose Name we pray, and who is one with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

SILENCE

Call the Prayer Teams & lay hands on them – Send them out

Invite the Assembly to come forward to receive the laying on of hands

Procession to receive the laying on of hands

Prayers of the Faithful – Vocation Prayer – Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist

D. Closing exhortation – the Announcements

1. God works patiently in our lives. Pray generously each day, visit our mysterious God in the secret of your inner room... and let the Holy Spirit teach you to become more observant of what He is doing deep within you and how He is guiding you in everything in your life.
 - ❖ Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you & read prayerfully the Bible, especially Psalms & Gospels.
 - ❖ Be docile to the Holy Spirit's guidance through the Sunday Liturgy and the Word of God.
 - ❖ Draw near to Jesus through the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.
 - ❖ Prepare yourself well to receive Jesus in Holy Communion and be open to Him all week.
2. After Mass our Prayer Teams will be here to pray with you to receive spiritual gifts:
 - ❖ To ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome doubts, fears, any contrary feelings or thoughts that may hold you back, any resistance in you to God's love, or any obstacle or trouble.
 - ❖ To ask the Holy Spirit for an increase of his power to pray and read the Word of God each day.
 - ❖ To ask the Holy Spirit for spiritual gifts and the desire to use them to serve the Lord in his people.
3. You can't expect all your problems to go away at once, though many will. Be attentive to the Spirit.
 - ❖ Accept the grace of humility to bring your sins and other spiritual questions to a priest for guidance and for confession – Jesus Himself is waiting for you there – and the Holy Spirit guides the priest to say what you need to hear and give you the support and encouragement you need.
 - ❖ Be faithful to a regular time of daily prayer and to weekly participation in the Sunday worship Liturgy. Look into participating in a prayer group. We will tell you more about that next week.
 - ❖ If you notice you are receiving the gift of tongues; then let it lift up your heart in a childlike way in your prayer every day. If you want to receive this gift to help you pray or know more about these spiritual gifts, you can find out more about them in one of our prayer groups.
 - ❖ Give a good portion of daily prayer time for praise and thanksgiving to God in your own words.

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