

VOCATION
SESSION OF 1/17/06
PRESENTED BY : FR. ED JOCSON

Fr. Ed said an opening Prayer

The Liturgical Calendar begins with Advent and ends with Christmas. The Christmas season continues with subsequent Sundays dedicated to Mary the Mother of God, Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus. There follows a period of ordinary time then begins the season of Lent ending with Easter. The Sundays after Easter are named as such... 1st Sunday of Easter.. Etc. ordinary time does not resume until after Pentecost. There are 4 Sundays of Advent and 5 Sundays of Easter. The greatest event in the church calendar is Easter, the feast of the Resurrection. However this is not a one-time event. We as church celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus every Sunday, in fact daily, every time we celebrate Eucharist.

The church calendar contains many feasts – some fixed and some moveable. Christmas, although not the actual birthday of Jesus, is fixed while Ash Wednesday, Easter and Pentecost are moveable. The Church redeemed some pagan holidays and renamed them for Catholic feasts. The 25th Dec was dedicated to a sun god now overshadowed by the Son of God. Ordinary time fills in the rest of the year – although the word “Ordinary” actually denotes Ordered Time. The cycle of readings at mass are divided into a two year cycle for daily mass – Year I and Year II. Sunday readings are in 3 cycles – Year A, Year B and Year C. While attending mass every Sunday, in 3 years we actually hear the entire Bible. It is important to note that although some aspects of the liturgy have changed over the centuries, most recently with prayers being translated into the vernacular, the structure is unchangeable.

VOCATION – means a calling. The reason we were created was to share in the life of God. We are encouraged to read the Catechism of the Catholic Church for a fuller understanding its teaching. It is organized into 4 parts: 1) The Profession of Faith; 2) The Celebration of the Christian Mystery; 3) Life in Christ; and 4) Christian Prayer. Each of these sections is subdivided and covers every aspect of our beliefs. Part I deals with the CREED – Why a knowing and loving God created us. The Church says: “All human beings are created by God for the purpose of knowing and loving the Creator. We believe that we are called by God ultimately to share in the Divine Life. In Jesus the fullness of this revelation is made manifest. The vocation to be a disciple is the basis for the believer’s joy in life and is the foundation of our salvation. Baptism is the celebration of this calling in Christ and it incorporates us into the life of the Risen Lord. The invitation to become a disciple and a member of the Kingdom is extended to every person on the face of the earth. Through the grace of God disciples make more disciples.”

In Pope John Paul II's book "Theology of the Body" he speaks about the human person as the masterpiece of God's creation. In the beginning when God created the world and all living things, at the end of each day He said "It is good." When the crown of His creation was completed, God said "It is very good," because we are created in His image. We are different from the animals because we have a free will; we are free to choose to either accept or reject God.

God is love. God is Trinity – three distinct persons in one God. The Father (the 1st person of the Trinity) and Son (the 2nd person of the Trinity) love each other with a love so intense, the power of that love is personified in the Holy Spirit (the 3rd person of the Trinity). When God created man He realized that it was not good for man to be alone. Adam looked among the creatures but did not find a suitable companion. We are created for companionship and while the longing for God is always present whether we acknowledge it or not, there is also a longing for human companionship. God knew this and therefore he created woman. The two became one and in that union they became a community and thereby a true reflection of God.

Christ sent forth the apostles, who in turn handed on the Gospel to succeeding generations. Impelled by the love of Christ, believers act on their vocation and therefore continue to spread the Good News of salvation throughout the world by the way they live their lives.

There are four basic vocations and all involve companionship:

1. The Married Life - 2 become 1; the image of God
2. The Celibate Life of priesthood – the priest is married to his Bride the Church
3. The Single Life – service in the world
4. The Consecrated Life – religious orders of men and women who also live lives of chastity and celibacy. The Lord is spouse.

IN JESUS OUR VOCATIONS ARE PERSONIFIED: All our giftedness and talents given to us by God are meant for the greater good of the community.

1. We become like Christ and by example we lead others to Him. We do so by professing our faith, living out our faith in daily life, and celebrating our faith by participating in the prayer and sacramental life of the Church.
2. We are called to be holy by virtue of our Baptism – we are the Body of Christ. The vocation of the church is to affect and influence this holiness. Holiness in our particular vocation means to individually and collectively know ourselves and recognize our roles. This is a glorious moment of recognition.

The unavoidable "Mystery of Suffering" enters into all our lives and like all mysteries is difficult if not impossible to explain or understand. Sometimes it is brought on by our choices and sometimes it is the result of somebody else's

choice. In any event it remains a mystery and it seems the only way to redeem it is by surrender to God and to keep in mind that everything ends in the TOTAL AND PERFECT JOY OF HEAVEN. When you encounter others in suffering give them hope and encourage them never to give up. God gave us His Son, His everything. He is the object of our Hope. We can trust Him because He is completely trustworthy.

Submitted by: Cecilia Cordeiro
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