

No to Clericalism, Yes to Jesus

Greetings on this the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (OCIA)

Readings: Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10; Ps 131:1, 2, 3; 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13; Mt 23:1-12

Notes: This homily is particular as the OCIA candidates will be listening to the readings and the homily before their dismissal to continue to read and contemplate Holy Scripture.

Fun Video: https://www.tiktok.com/@tofu_corgi/video/6988183423248600326?lang=en

Dogs be like: This person feeds me, gives me water, pets me, he must be God.

Cats be like: This person feeds me, gives me water, pets me, I must be God.

The first reading from Malachi brings out the ignorant and/or deceitful things we sometimes do:

1. Duplicitous use of the honoring of Father and Master casually and inappropriately.
2. We do not listen to G-d, we do not take to heart His Voice, nor honor the word of the LORD.
3. We teach false things, useless traditions and novel customs as divine precepts.
4. We show partiality to our friends and not treat all fairly.
5. The list goes on. Eek! Remember the LORD does not speak of these things to harm us but to heal us.

Cross Reference elsewhere in Malachi and the Prophet Isaiah.

A son honors his father, and a servant fears his master; If, then, I am a father, where is the honor due to me? And if I am a master, where is the fear due to me? (Mal 1:6a).

The Lord said: Since this people draws near with words only and honors me with their lips alone, though their hearts are far from me, And fear of me has become mere precept of human teaching (Isa 29:13).

How do we fall into such a state of being!! We are responsible for our actions. Our actions are an outward expression of our conscience. Growth is key. **When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. (1 Cor 13:11).**

We need to grow in faith. You are here to grow in faith. Our spiritual health and well-being is our personal responsibility. We are given to think and grow. Sense and feel. Consider and act rightly. Conscience is a judgment of reason of what is right and what is wrong. We need to have a well-formed conscience which responds to the inspiration of G-d. We need to have an informed conscience which is trained to know the difference.

Formed means to think rightly in the basics of our behavior. Informed conscience a conscience that is educated and developed through constant use and examination and learning about the teachings of the Church.

Who do I trust and what should I learn? (Who is Teacher, Master?)

- **Sacred Scripture**, particularly, the words gospel places in the mouth of Jesus.
- **Catechism** – an excellent compendium.
- **Church Teaching** - extension of the application.
- **Preaching** – localized application.
- **Teaching** – renewal of thinking. Exercising the brain and soulful being – unified!

- **Modelling – *I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. (Jn 13:15).***
- **Treatment - *Brothers and sisters: We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us.***

Gently, by example, with authentic teaching, by exhortation in the here and now, by the authority of the Church, firmly based in the sacred Scriptures and especially in the words of Jesus where now I can choose freely G-d. G-d is my Father. Jesus is my Master. You are my brothers and sisters. Then I can honor everyone with a right intention of honors.

First Reading

Have we not all the one father? Has not the one God created us? Why then do we break faith with one another, violating the covenant of our fathers?

Responsorial

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O LORD, my heart is not proud, nor are my eyes haughty; I busy not myself with great things, nor with things too sublime for me. Nay rather, I have stilled and quieted my soul like a weaned child. Like a weaned child on its mother's lap, so is my soul within me.

Second Reading

We were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cares for her children. With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well.

Gospel Acclamation

You have but one Father in heaven and one master, the Christ.

Gospel

You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Peace be with you,

Deacon Gerry