

Corpus Christi B SML 2021  
MK 14:12-16, 22-26

There is so much emphasis in society today on making what is different the same, what is unequal, equal. The circulating Equality Act is case in point. The problem of social reconstruction, making what is different the same, what is unequal, equal, has revolved around three words spoken since the time of the French Revolution, and they are: liberty, equality and fraternity. Which of these three ideals should be first in rebuilding the social order?

Let's start with liberty. Let man be free, and let freedom mean the power to do:

- ✓ what you want,
- ✓ when you want,
- ✓ with whom and to whom you want,
- ✓ how you want,
- ✓ and where you want;
- ✓ loot stores,
- ✓ burn down cities,
- ✓ storm Capitols,
- ✓ and violate immigrant children

✓ without any interference or consequence.

Well, they've had their liberty, which is another word for selfishness, and liberty brought neither equality nor fraternity. In fact, it has left us a country which has never been more divided since the Civil War.

Let's try equality, and make everyone equal by doing nothing more than identifying oneself as equal. I am a man who identifies as a woman. I am a C student who identifies as an A student. I can't throw to hit the broad side of a barn, but I identify as one who throws a strike every time. They had their equality and it destroyed liberty and fraternity, because a woman can no longer feel safe in a women's locker or rest room, the A student feels cheated because his university seat went to the C student, and the same goes for the all star pitcher who is now sitting the bench. And on a personal note, I will never feel comfortable if a woman held the door for me. It will always be the other way around, not because I identify as a gentleman, but because I am a gentleman, and not a male chauvinist.

So then, let's start with fraternity or brotherhood. Brothers may share, but that does not make them brothers. Thieves

may share their loot, but that does not make them brothers. The early Christians were not one because they pooled their wealth. They pooled their wealth because they were Christians.

However, there is a way to build up a social order where men are free and equal and that is by starting with brotherhood. The one and only way to make men brothers is by giving them a common body and a common blood. And there is only one Father in the universe who is good enough and powerful enough to make us all His adopted sons, and He is Our Heavenly Father who so loved the world that He sent His Beloved Son into the world to give us His Body and His Blood.

Thanks to the Eucharist, Whose feast we celebrate today on Corpus Christi, the age-long symbol of the common meal becomes the basis of the brotherhood of men and the Fatherhood of God. Quoting St. Thomas Aquinas, “Just as many grains of wheat make one bread, and many grapes of the vine make one wine, so we who are many are all made one in that Bread which is the Body and that Wine which is the Blood.” Once men are made brothers of Christ and sons of the

Heavenly Father in the Communion procession, then equality and liberty follow. Men are both equal and free:

- ✓ equal because God loves each communicant infinitely, and each has a common need which God alone can supply;
- ✓ and free because each soul is one with Christ who can do all things that are good – and what greater freedom is there than that?

The Communion Procession is for that reason the greatest common leveler on the face of the Earth. The Communion Procession is even a greater leveler than death, for there is no distinction between:

- ✓ the rich and the poor,
- ✓ the learned and the unlearned,
- ✓ the millionaire who might take the Host from a common laborer,
- ✓ the employer who consumes the same Host as the employee,
- ✓ and the university professor who consumes the same Host as the second grade student.

Despite the fact that the Communion procession works for some 1.2 billion Catholics in the world, for the rest, the answer found in the Eucharist is:

- ✓ too simplistic
- ✓ too idealistic,
- ✓ and clearly too impractical.

Lord, this is no way to run a railroad. Certainly it is impractical but that is precisely why it succeeds. The modern world is too far gone for practical solutions. The body of the modern world is sick, but not as sick as the soul of the modern world.

Our Lord chose a very impractical way to redeem and transform the world. It was extremely impractical to put down the Roman persecution of the Jewish and Christian believers by submitting to the number one weapon of Romans persecution, namely a crucifixion. It was impractical to win a victory over the hardened hearts of men by going down to defeat. It was impractical to save a selfish world by the Love that loved to the end, which was shown on that Friday called Good.

No wonder the practical-minded men and women of His day came beneath the Cross and challenged Him to come down.

- ✓ Come down from Your Cross of impracticality!
- ✓ Come down and cast dice for the garments of God!
- ✓ Come down from Your Cross of Love to our class struggle of hate!
- ✓ Come down from Your Love of God to a love of Caesar!

The world thinks the only man who will ever save us, and implement liberty, equality and fraternity is the practical man who has “both feet on the ground.” But Jesus did not have both feet on the ground. He was suspended between heaven and earth, with His feet nailed to a cross.

“Come down and we will believe.” But He did not come down. Why?

- ✓ because it is practical to come down,
  - ✓ because it is human to come down,
  - ✓ because if He came down He would have never saved us.
- It is Divine to be impractical. It is Divine to hang there.