

2nd Wednesday of Lent. 3/3/2021

Greatness through service.

Jesus is the one who is truly great. Jesus is great in what he has done and what he continues to do. He is great in his very person. He invites us to share in his greatness as members of his mystical body. He asks us to share in his greatness by following him and bringing his love to the world.

This is the recipe: Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.

Jesus led the way with his example. In his greatness, he did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as ransom for many. He did not deem equality with God

something to be grasped at. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave.

We just heard in the Gospel about the request from the sons of Zebedee on the way to Jerusalem. This request was not altogether unreasonable, from a human perspective. At the start of his public ministry, Jesus had seen the two brothers doing their work and he called them. They responded immediately, leaving the boat and their father to follow Jesus. They left everything behind. Now they are part of the inner circle of the twelve. As the kingdom is established, with Jesus as the king, isn't it fitting that they take a place of honor, one sitting at his right and one at his left? At least to be in the running?

But this is not the way the kingdom works. Instead, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant. We participate in bringing the love of God to the world through our service. We can help to bring relief to suffering, support others in their growth, help them recognize their dignity and especially bring the saving love of God to others.

Christian service is acting on behalf of God for the benefit of our brothers and sisters. We are not independent agents of good, implementing our personal vision of a better world. Rather, we are totally dependent on God and we work to fulfill our part in his plan of salvation.

We don't know for whom the Father has prepared the seats at the right and the left of Jesus, but we know he has

prepared a place in heaven for each one of us. A place for us in heaven to be happy with him forever, and also a unique place on earth to grow in love of God and service to others, each in our own way, in the small events of every day.

We received the light of Christ in our baptism. Each of us reflects this light to the world in a unique way.

We continue our Lenten journey, asking our Lord to show us the way and to strengthen us in the Eucharist, to respond in faith to his call. As follow the lead of our king, through the grace of God, our acts of service can become an attitude of service, to bring the love of God in everything we do.