

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

As we approach Lent, the gospel call us to reflect on what type of spiritual lives do we have; what is the state of our spiritual life. If we desire to have a spiritually rewarding Lent, which leads to a Blessed, Joyous and Peaceful Easter Season, we need to take stock of our spiritual lives, so we can have a lively, growing spiritual life; a holy and virtuous spiritual life sustained, nurtured by the Trinity's graces. In the gospel, we see a key component for a virtuous and holy spiritual life which nurtures a deep growing intimate relationship with the Trinity, in Christ's example of having a robust prayer life. Another important aspect for having a virtuous and holy spiritual life, which nurtures a deep growing intimate relationship with the Trinity is seen in the St Peter's and the other disciples' action. St Mark recounts that St. Peter and the other disciples had a spiritual life marked by the virtue of Zeal. They had a spiritual life marked by a deep desire to deepen their relationship with Trinity, through a growing relationship with Christ. St Mark makes this point by the verb he used to describe their action in response to finding Jesus was not with them. St Mark didn't recount that they went looking for Jesus but that they pursued him which connotes a determined effort marked by a passionate desire in following and finding someone.

Do our thoughts, words and actions show we are zealous in desiring a spiritual life which deepens our relationship with Trinity through strengthening the virtue of Zeal, so as to desire to more faithfully follow Christ's example of having a vibrant prayer life; and by working on following St Peter's example of striving to more faithfully follow Christ's example of sacrificial love, in order to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ, and the other members of the Trinity? Or do our thoughts, words and actions show we are indifferent in striving to more faithfully follow Christ's example of sacrificial love; indifferent, lackadaisical in desiring and/or developing a more intimate relationship with Christ and the other members of the Trinity?

In what areas of our lives does indifference rule our thoughts, words, and actions allowing sin and vices to take root in us, rather than having the Trinity's graces take root in us, so as to allow the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Theological and Cardinal virtues to reside in our souls, to reside in our heart, mind and will, in order to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ and the other members of the Trinity, by more faithfully living out the Trinity's 2 Commandments of Love?

Right after the homily, will we pray for the Trinity's help to strengthen the virtues of humility, meekness, zeal, and fortitude, so we can grow in our ability to hear and follow the Trinity's truth, in order to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ and the other members of the Trinity by more faithfully living the Trinity's 2 Commandments of Love as defined by the 10 Commandments and the Church's teachings?

While we are waiting to receive our Lord & Savior at communion, will we spend a moment or two, asking the Trinity for the graces we need, so as to strengthen the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Theological and Cardinal virtues; thereby strengthening the virtues of humility, meekness and zeal; so we can have the tools we need to weed out those secular cultural influences which allow the vices of pride, arrogance, envy, and sloth to reside in our hearts?

During the quiet meditation time given us right after communion, we need to spend that time praising the Trinity, and, also asking the Trinity for the graces we need, so as to strengthen the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Theological and Cardinal virtues; thereby strengthening the virtues of humility, meekness, and zeal; in order to weed out those secular cultural ideas which strengthen the vices of pride, arrogance, envy and sloth, which lead us to sin.

After the Mass, and during the week, we need to make time to ask the Trinity for the graces we require, so as to strengthen the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Theological and Cardinal virtues; thereby developing and strengthening the virtues of humility, meekness and zeal; in order to weed out those secular cultural values which strengthen the vices of pride, arrogance, envy, and sloth, thereby, leading us to sin.

We also need to make use of the sacrament of Confession, so as to receive the graces we require, to further strengthen the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Theological and Cardinal virtues; thereby strengthening the virtues of humility, meekness, and zeal; so as to continue to develop the tools we need to weed out those secular cultural ideas which strengthen the vices of pride, arrogance, envy, and sloth which leads to sin.

Before we continue on with the Mass, let us ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit now, and especially when we consume our Lord in the Eucharist; so we can be open to the Trinity's graces; so as to reject secular culture's values, ideas, and approach to life; in order to become more intimate, loving, adopted family members, of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by strengthening, growing, in the virtues of humility, meekness and zeal.