

10.09.2018 – Tuesday – 27th Week in Ordinary Time

Gal 1:6-12 Lk 10:38-42

There are different forms of hospitality; there is the hospitality of activity and the hospitality of presence. In today's gospel reading, Martha exemplifies the hospitality of activity and Mary the hospitality of presence. Martha's way of showing hospitality was to roll up her sleeves and to prepare an elaborate meal in a rather anxious frame of mind.

Her anxious activity made her rather angry with her sister whom she perceived not to be carrying her weight sufficiently. Anxiety and preoccupation keep us away from listening and from giving the Lord our undivided attention. The Lord bids us to give him our concerns and anxieties because he is trustworthy and able to meet any need we have. His grace frees us from needless concerns and preoccupation.

It seems that on this occasion, it was the hospitality of presence rather than of activity, which Jesus was really looking for. In that sense, Mary read the situation better than Martha did. In the words of Jesus, she chose the better part. In reality, Jesus wanted to feed both sisters with his word.

In our own relationship with the Lord there is a time for both sitting at his feet to listen to whatever word he may wish to speak to us and there is a time for rolling up our sleeves and serving in a very active way, as the Samaritan did in the parable that formed part of yesterday's gospel reading.

Attentive listening to the word of the Lord in which we allow the Lord to serve us and feed us has a great value which be easily undermined by the anxious business of our lives.

Do we seek the Lord attentively in our busy world? Does the Lord find a welcomed and honored place in our home?

Let us pray

Lord, help me to hear You calling me to stop what I'm doing and to simply rest in Your divine presence. May I find those moments every day in which I can be refreshed in Your presence. "Lord Jesus, to be in your presence is life and joy for me. Free me from needless concerns and preoccupations that I may give you my undivided love and attention." Jesus, I trust in You.