

Dcn Mark Homily 7/19/2020

Read: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 (106A); Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43

In a monthly magazine I receive called Liguorian a short story of a man and his son who went on a camping trip, I'd like to share that story with you. Just the two of them and they were roughing it, not glamping like my wife and I do which means glorious or glamorous camping with all the amenities. This man and his son carried everything on their backs just as the boy scouts would do. Well, the man and his son hiked through the forest and got to a great location, built a fire, and shared a meal and conversation. And then they erected a tarp to cover them during the night, laid out their sleeping bags on the ground and fell asleep. During the night, the son woke the father and said, "hey dad, what do you see overhead?" The dad rubbed his eyes and was a little disoriented from being awakened out of a deep sleep, he looked about and said, "I see thousands of stars." "What does that tell you?" his son asked. After a moment of thought the man realized that this was an excellent opportunity to share some wisdom with his son. He said, "astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of stars and planets. Astrologically it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Timewise, it appears to be about 3:15 am. Theologically, it's evident that the Lord is all powerful and present. Meteorologically, it seems we'll have a beautiful day tomorrow." The father proud of this thoroughly shared monologue, then asked his son, "what does this sight tell you?" His son, silent for a moment said, "that sky over our sleeping bag tells me that someone stole our tarp." Sometimes we don't see the obvious, perhaps we need the eyes of a child to see the obvious. And we know that what is obvious for some is not for others, it depends on the depth and understanding of each person. Are your eyes the eyes of a child of God? Are mine? You know age has no bearing. I think the father's rendition of what he saw was intelligent and thorough, covering all the bases. But many times, when you and I are asked what we see, we see everything else, we see the worldly but not the godly. We listen to the world news and talk with our family members, but we do not listen and talk to our Heavenly Father. Sometimes the obvious is more apparent to the little ones. As we heard in our Gospel acclamation, blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to the little one's the mysteries of the kingdom. The wise and understanding of this world are those who rely on their own judgement and can not except the

revelation which Christ Jesus brought us. To see through the eyes of Christ requires humility. A humble person who gives himself less importance, sees. A person who is full of self-esteem, fails to see or understand supernatural things from God. In at least 6 places in the Gospels, Jesus refers to the little ones. Depending on a specific wording selected by the translator, we see the terms little ones, infants, unlearned, insignificant, and humble. Who are these people the scripture is referring to? Who are these little ones? They are our Lord's apostles and disciples. And I hope you and I fall into that category before our Lord's harvest time. I hope we are intentional disciples. Are we humble knowing we are nothing without Christ? Are we unlearned knowing we know little about the mysteries of God? Are we infants not being able to care for and protect ourselves? In the last few weeks, if we follow the daily scripture readings, we heard about Jesus sending out His 12 disciples on mission, all about us taking up our cross, about loving Jesus above all others, and if we lose our life for His sake, we will find eternal life forever. We heard about the reward when we receive our Lord or one of His disciples, receiving a prophet's reward if we receive a prophet, or a righteous man's reward if we receive a righteous man. And when we receive or welcome them and receive or welcome their message of great news, we receive or welcome Christ; something that all of us can do not matter who we are. Even giving a cold cup of water to one of our Lord's disciples, one of these little ones, we shall receive a reward. If we have received His word, we have received that mustard seed we heard about in today's Gospel. And now we are to plant it, to water it, to care for it until it grows to maturity and repeats the process. And in that process is life eternal because that is what is in that mustard seed. I would like to go back to the story I started my homily with a conversation between a young boy and his father. The obvious thing was that the tarp was gone but the father wanted to share the deep truths with his son and not even notice the missing tarp. At that moment, what the father had to share with his son was more important than the missing tarp even though he did not realize it was gone. You and I are surrounded by the obvious details and happenings of the world, but we must be more like the father and share the deep truths that God has planted in us. Because if we don't, the good seed, the wheat that was sown by our Lord, will be overrun or strangled by the weeds, the devil. We must remember that each one of us are sewers, that is why our Heavenly Father gave us life, to work in His garden to produce fruit 100 or 60 or 30-fold. Your garden and mine are all the

people we come into contact with in our lives. These parables are given to us to learn from, but they are also a warning, a warning of the real evil in this world and our responsibility to combat and eradicate it. We can spend our lives living for ourselves and looking at the obvious that the whole world sees or living for Christ with the aid of the Holy Spirit and the promise of eternal life in heaven. The choice is ours, whoever has ears ought to hear.