

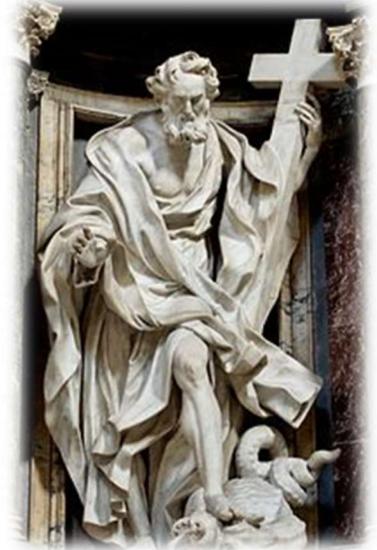
St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Saturday, September 5, 2020

-- Saturday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:6-15

Brothers and sisters: Learn from myself and Apollos not to go beyond what is written, so that none of you will be inflated with pride in favor of one person over against another. Who confers distinction upon you? What do you possess that you have not received? But if you have received it, why are you boasting as if you did not receive it? You are already satisfied; you have already grown rich; you have become kings without us! Indeed, I wish that you had become kings, so that we also might become kings with you.



For as I see it, God has exhibited us Apostles as the last of all, like people sentenced to death, since we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and men alike. We are fools on Christ's account, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clad and roughly treated, we wander about homeless and we toil, working with our own hands. When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we respond gently. We have become like the world's rubbish, the scum of all, to this very moment.

I am writing you this not to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. Even if you should have countless guides to Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145:17-18, 19-20, 21

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth. ***R/.***

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him,
he hears their cry and saves them.

The Lord keeps all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy. ***R/.***

May my mouth speak the praise of the Lord,
and may all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. ***R/.***

Gospel: Luke 6:1-5

While Jesus was going through a field of grain on a sabbath, his disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them. Some Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the sabbath?” Jesus said to them in reply, “Have you not read what David did when he and those who were with him were hungry? How he went into the house of God, took the bread of offering, which only the priests could lawfully eat, ate of it, and shared it with his companions?” Then he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.”

Reflection

Learn . . . not to . . . be inflated with pride in favor of one person over and against another. (1 Corinthians 4:6)

It stood out clearly to Paul, and he wasn't happy with what he saw: the believers in Corinth were breaking down into factions. Some people pledged loyalty to Apollos, some to Peter. Others identified with Paul. What's worse, they were promoting their preferred preacher and devaluing all the rest. But such divisiveness isn't what any of those apostles wanted to encourage. So Paul told the Christians there to look beyond the gifted preachers or teachers and focus on Jesus, the One from whom all those gifts came.

It wasn't just the early Church. We've all seen it in our parishes, our workplaces, and our neighborhoods. It's very easy for factions or cliques to form and cause division.

Consider your parish: one person may be superb at keeping the various ministries well organized. Another may be good at reaching out to young people or identifying and making the most of God's gifts in the people around him. One priest always has a memorable homily. Another celebrates Mass in a reverent or moving way. It's easy to be so impressed with those talents that we begin to value and prefer one person more than another. Even more, we can lose sight of the Lord, who is the source of each talent.

Each of us has different gifts. Each of us appreciates some characteristics more than others when we consider the people around us. But all of these gifts come from Jesus and are meant to reveal his love and his presence to us. In fact, God wants us to recognize his image and likeness in every one of the people we encounter — parishioner, coworker, neighbor, even enemy.

So when you're at work or at church, look for the ways God has gifted the people you meet. Appreciate the creativity of the Lord, who makes himself visible to us in so many ways. And give thanks to Jesus, the One from whom all these talents come.

Thank you, Jesus, for your work in the lives of your servants, my brothers and sisters. Help me to see you in them and to treasure each of them.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.