

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

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

Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: Sue Bleacher

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Brothers and sisters, I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were unable to take it. Indeed, you are still not able, even now, for you are still of the flesh. While there is jealousy and rivalry among you, are you not of the flesh, and walking according to the manner of man? Whenever someone says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely men?

What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21

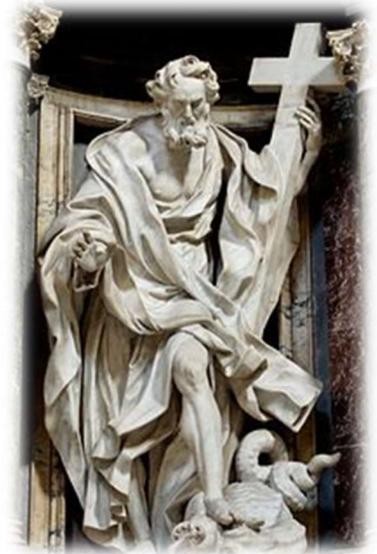
Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

From heaven the Lord looks down;
he sees all mankind. *R/.*

From his fixed throne he beholds
all who dwell on the earth,
He who fashioned the heart of each,
he who knows all their works. *R/.*

Our soul waits for the Lord,
who is our help and our shield,
For in him our hearts rejoice;
in his holy name we trust. *R/.*



Gospel: Luke 4:38-44

After Jesus left the synagogue, he entered the house of Simon. Simon's mother-in-law was afflicted with a severe fever, and they interceded with him about her. He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up immediately and waited on them.

At sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him. He laid his hands on each of them and cured them. And demons also came out from many, shouting, "You are the Son of God." But he rebuked them and did not allow them to speak because they knew that he was the Christ.

At daybreak, Jesus left and went to a deserted place. The crowds went looking for him, and when they came to him, they tried to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them, "To the other towns also I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent." And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Reflection

Jesus left and went to a deserted place. (Luke 4:42)

It seems ironic that the Son of God, sent to love and save every single person on the planet, also made it a habit to avoid people. It had nothing to do with how he felt about us, though, and everything to do with how he felt about God.

The Bible recounts many instances when Jesus went off to pray by himself. And sometimes the crowds managed to find him.

How did Jesus feel when people ruined his plans? We don't know. We do know that he didn't grumble about the interruptions but instead, he took the time to speak with the people and heal them. In today's Gospel, for instance, Jesus must have treated the people respectfully, because they encouraged him to stay on. But Jesus knew God's will for him, and his response was firm: it was time to pray, then move on.

Another instance of Jesus meeting an unexpected crowd occurs in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus wanted to be alone to grieve the death of his cousin John the Baptist. But when a large crowd tracked him down, he was "moved with pity" and healed their sick (Matthew 14:14). He even fed them by multiplying five loaves of bread and two fish. Eventually, though, Jesus "dismissed the crowds" and "went up on the mountain by himself to pray" (Matthew 14:22, 23).

As unique as Jesus' life was, in many ways it was also similar to our lives. Like us, he faced many demands on his time, and he had to handle life's bumps with grace and humility.

We should be flexible with our schedules, as Jesus was, especially when people need our love and help. He never ignored the person right in front of him. But he was just as careful not to ignore the Father, whose love sustained and strengthened him. If Jesus, who was without sin, needed time alone with God, how much more do we need it!

So if your plans for quiet prayer are interrupted, don't fret. Just look to the next opportunity. Make God a priority. Pray that you are following his will for you. He will provide the balance and peace you are seeking for your busy life.

Jesus, teach me how to balance the needs of people with my need to spend time with you.

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.