

Reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Almighty ever-living God direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Last night I had written about 300 words or about a third of my reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary time. At that point I went to the kitchen and fixed myself a cup of coffee and then returned to the Study to finish the reflection. At that point I discovered my computer that had been giving me difficulties all evening as I did research for the reflection had chosen to freeze up and when it started to work again, I had lost 250 for the 300 words that I had written. All that was left was the Collect or Opening Prayer, this prayer still appears at the start of the reflection. I will have to admit that when I saw that I had lost 75% of what I had written I was more relieved than frustrated for I seemed to have writers block and what not too happy with the direction that the reflection was going. I had started with the Collect Prayer for the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time and was explaining the structure and meaning of the Collect Prayer, and how it gave a focused message of the readings that we have this Sunday.

Today, reading the explanation of the work that I had done but had lost makes the work sound far better than how I viewed it last night. To me it just seemed like something was missing, the spark that brought the words to life just did not seem to be there. Of course, if anyone else was able to read what I had written they may agree with my assessment of the work I had done last night or might of found more merit in the work than I did. Knowing that the work has been lost no one will be able to make an independent assessment of the work, so it is time to move on.

Some who read this reflection might think that I have shared this information with you as an attempt to fill in the work that I had lost. I assure you that if you are thinking along these lines there is some truth to that line of thought. But there is also another reason for sharing this information with you and this can be found in the first sentence of our Gospel reading this Sunday taken from the Gospel of Mark which states “*After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God.*” In our Gospel reading this Sunday we hear of Jesus calling Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, to become fishers of men. Mark the author of today’s Gospel Reading makes sure that we are aware of what has transpired before Jesus calls Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John to become fishers of men. Jesus’ call of His future Apostles to follow Him is not done in a vacuum, rather His calling is connected to the rest of God’s salvific plan for humanity.

May we also know that as we choose to follow Christ in this world and be His servant in our daily lives, we too are connected to God’s salvific plan for humanity. No matter what our vocation is in this world be it single, married, in religious life, a deacon or a priest all walks of life with Christ enable us to participate in God’s salvific plan for humanity. In choosing to walk with Christ in our daily lives we are choosing to allow God to direct our actions according to His will. By doing this we are following in the footsteps the Apostles, Disciples, and Saints that have gone before us in faith. But on a daily bases’ we need to discern the Lords calling for each moment of one’s life. We do not just determine the basic path God calls us to follow, such as a Religious Life or a Life as a lay person but we must discern our daily walk with our Lord in our actions, deeds, and thoughts. For our Collect Prayer this Sunday reminds us that the small and large matters of life are all important as we choose to follow Christ in this world.