

Deacon Tony's August 13, 2023 Homily for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

IN SEARCH OF OUR SAVIOR

Think of the hundreds of years that the Israelites were in search of their Messiah, and yet when He arrived in their midst, they did not recognize Him. Even when He told them that He was sent by His Father in heaven, their hearts were veiled.

The prophet Elijah had his hands full in order to speak for Yahweh in the Northern Kingdom, against Baal. Ahab the King was killing the prophets that spoke up for Yahweh and Elijah was the final prophet left. He was running for his life when he went into the cave at Horeb to seek shelter. He was seeking to find God's will for his life. So, the Lord instructed Elijah to listen very carefully. Something the Lord guides us to do as well: LISTEN VERY CLOSELY. Because it was not in a strong wind, not in an earthquake, not in a raging fire, but it was in a soft whisper.

How many times do we expect God to make a loud appearance in our lives. No, God softly calls us to do small things to show that we are listening, especially when He tells us that he will always stand with us to see things through.

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, shares how he is grieved by his fellow Israelites, who do not recognize the Christ. They have enjoyed many gifts from God: ADOPTION, COVENANTS, THE LAW, THE PATRIARCHS but do not accept Jesus as the Savior made flesh who is over all God's love for them.

So, in our Gospel we see an enactment of man's utter failure to do God's work on our own power. We always must be attentive to His call and ready to do His will. "NOT MY WILL BUT YOUR WILL, DEAR FATHER IN HEAVEN. We must also be aware that there is an evil spirit that prowls about the earth seeking the ruin of souls. That living in this spirit, we are prevented from hearing God's whisper.

The church is like the boat that carries us through rough waters. It offers us many opportunities also gifts from God, to keep our hearts set on Jesus.

THE EUCHARIST that is offered everyday that fills our hearts with God's grace.

THE BIBLE which we can read daily to get instruction from the Holy Spirit.

RECONCILIATION which keeps our relationship with God fresh and new.

THE ROSARY which gives us the opportunity to meditate on the mysteries of Our Lord's life on earth.

HOLY WATER that can be used to bless our family members and our houses.

FELLOWSHIP at STM.

The Litany of Humility

Resp. DELIVER ME OH JESUS

FROM THE DESIRE OF BEING ESTEEMED..... DELIVER ME OH JESUS

FROM THE DESIRE OF BEING LOVED... DELIVER ME OH JESUS

FROM THE DESIRE OF BEING HONORED... DELIVER ME OH JESUS

FROM THE DESIRE OF BEING PRAISED... DELIVER ME OH JESUS

FROM THE DESIRE OF BEING PREFERRED TO OTHERS... DELIVER ME OH JESUS

OH JESUS,

FROM THE FEAR OF BEING HUMILIATED... DELIVER ME OH JESUS

FROM THE FEAR OF BEING DESPISED... DELIVER ME OH JESUS

FROM THE FEAR OF SUFFERING REBUKES... DELIVER ME OH JESUS

FROM THE FEAR OF BEING SUSPECTED

That others may be loved more than me, Jesus,

grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be chosen and I overlooked

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be praised and I go unnoticed,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

Amen