

Deacon Tony's Homily
For
6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It is good preparation to read the passages just before the Gospel to get a sense of what God's message is in the readings.

Before our readings today, Jesus presents the Beatitudes in His teaching often referred as His Sermon on the Mount. It is a more pleasant way of doing God's will in a positive persuasion. Rather than presenting God's roadmap as a don't do list, it is a list of rewards that we will receive when we submit to His will.

He also talks about salt and light and we can live as salt and light to ourselves in order to contribute to God's way of life.

Salt is pure and we can purify our world around us. It is a preservative for our Catholic faith. Salt brings out the best flavor in a community as well as a thirst for justice.

Light allows us to see life as only God sees things.

"I did not come to abolish the law but I came to fulfill the law". The father's law was very well received by the Israelites because it proved to them that God, not only knew who they were but also had the roadmap to bring them home.

Of course we know that Jesus had narrowed them down to the two most important laws that formed the foundation of God's law.

"Love God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself." These made up the foundation of God's laws.

The scribes and the pharisees had added hundreds of interpretations for the people to disobey God. They were mostly externally centered and not necessarily sins of the heart.

If we come to God's altar with revenge in our hearts, that we refuse to forgive, our prayer is useless until we make amends.

We know that adultery harms not only the person who commits adultery but also the spouse, the children, the whole family as well as our faith community. Jesus takes it one step closer by saying if our hearts carry lust then we are adulterous. It is often said that unclean thoughts are, **our business**, and **we are not hurting anyone**. People will claim that they are not hurting anyone when they indulge in pornography. Usually filling our minds and hearts to impurity, distracts us from loving God with all of our being.

It is not seeking reward with the minimum effort, but it is wanting to stay as close to God, in everything that we do and say. We strive to place His will before any self-pleasure that we can indulge in.

Rather than use the law as our measure, we are called to use God's measure which will take us beyond the limit, to make life on earth a heavenly place to dwell.