

## **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY?**

The beatitudes are like eight doors to the Kingdom of God.

Shortly after the Sermon on the Mount or the Beatitudes our Lord continued to give us visuals for His sermon. He has us picture salt and light and how we can apply these symbols to our Christian obligation. Salt has a purpose in our lives. But if it is not used it loses its taste it is useless and the original purpose is wasted. But when it is mixed into our lives, it gives life a wonderful taste and makes it a wonderful experience. The whole experience is lost with me because I never salt my food but there are many who will not eat food until it is well salted.

Like popcorn in a movie theater. Mary and I cannot share a popcorn.

I want to share a personal story that I experienced when we first moved to California in 1984. My daughter was on a softball team and one of the mothers approached me to tell me how she enjoyed coaching my daughter. She was Jewish which really doesn't mean anything but I felt her description was coming out of the Old Testament. She said my daughter was like salt that added flavor to the team.

Let's stop and pause to think of an experience in our own lives where someone made our lives more flavorful. My Aunt Joann who made delicious dishes that were perfectly seasoned, but also brought good conversation to our visits.

She was always genuinely concerned about you. Let us thank the Lord for the people that we remember as bringing flavor to our lives and that inspire us to do the same.

Light is the Lord's second visual. From our Baptism we were given a candle as the symbol of the light of Christ. It illumines our path back to the Father in heaven. It shows us the people along our path. The hungry, the homeless, the naked, (many without shoes), and your relatives in need. I think that we all have relatives that we would rather not hear from because of their many needs that would be an inconvenience to our lifestyle.

These are the people that Isaiah referred to in our first reading. He was instructing the people just after they were returning from captivity. They had a new freedom and probably many thought they could live a leisurely life.

But Isaiah was there to remind them that we do not live for ourselves alone if we are to be truly free.

We are to share the simplicity of our Lord Jesus our Savior's message as Paul reminds us. His faith rested on the power of God through Jesus Christ.

"YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH"

"DO NOT HIDE YOUR LAMP UNDER A BUSHEL BASKET"

If you feel more comfortable with a group, our St Vincent DePaul Society does great work with the poor. We would like to start a used clothes pick up for donations for the Catholic Worker.

Reach out to just one person just one time to see how it feels. If you find it to be a rewarding experience, you might do it again. Who knows, it might become a habit?