

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 5, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 23: 1-12)

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “*The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen...They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation ‘Rabbi’ As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one earth father; you have one Father in heaven. Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*”

Reflection:

Jesus tells us that there is only one God-(one Father, one teacher, one master) and all our direction comes from keeping God central. When our focus is right, then our relationships are right. God as center leaves us servants-both of God and of one another. Keeping our focus on God doesn’t allow us to seek honors and recognition. It allows us to serve God in one another. The surprise and good news is that when we keep our focus on God and serve one another, God exalts us! (Living Liturgy, p.268)

Vincenian Meditation:

“Let us stop saying, ‘It is I who have done this work.’ For every good thing ought to be done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. God pours out his inexhaustible gifts on the humble, those who recognize that all the good done by them comes from God.”
–St. Vincent de Paul- (McKenna, Praying with Vincent, p.74)

Discussion: (*Share your thoughts after a moment of silence*)

Share the times when you have found that God indeed “pours out his inexhaustible gifts on the humble”.

Closing Prayer:

We celebrate the mystery of your presence in our lives.

Filled with joy, we pray:

-Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

There are those who do not know your presence,
-may our lives be a sign of faith for them.

There are those who do not know your presence,
-may our lives be a sign of hope for them.

There are those who do not experience your love,
-may our lives be a sign of love for them.

There are those who are poor and oppressed by others,
-may our lives be a sign of justice for them.

Amen

