

Homily Rerun: June 25, 2017 - Fr. Seno

DO NOT BE AFRAID



My dear people of Peace, twice in the Gospel passage of today Jesus says "Do not be afraid," and once He said, "Fear no one". This is because Jesus knew that God is always with us, in all eventualities of life. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nothing secret. Sometimes someone will tell you, this is between you and me, but that is not true you and everyone knows that. God knows everything better than we do, and even to our very needs. God really cares about us and takes care of us hence the Good News of today's Gospel is: "Do not be afraid."

My dear friends, but just after saying these encouraging words. "Do not be afraid," Jesus says just the opposite: "Be afraid." "Be afraid of the one who can destroy both your soul and body in Gehenna. Be afraid of the one who can lead you astray, be afraid of the one who can ruin you. What will it profit a man after gaining the whole world and lose his soul. Jesus reminds us that our top concern should be about God: how He thinks of us and how we can please him. So, on one hand, we should be afraid and on the other hand, we should not be afraid. We

have to be afraid of being selfish and dishonest; we have to be afraid of sin and the devil. We should be afraid of anything that will offend God. Is your dressing modest at Church? Or is your dressing a temptation to others at Church? Is your dressing at Church pleasing to God or to the society? Sometimes your mode of dressing is a temptation to others without you knowing it. If we really love God, we have to do things that please Him, we need not fear Him; but love Him. If we love God it will be needless to fear death, for not even death can separate us from God.

The more we think of death, the better and more meaningful will be our life. In the midst of trials and difficulties we have the assurance: "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great heaven." Mt. 5:11). That means we might be rejected, dejected and despised, but we will never be overcome; the body can be destroyed but not the soul. Persecution is not a tragedy for us, but a mark of the prophetic role we have been assigned to play. Failures are not a tragedy for us, but the steps to a renewal of life. We should only put our whole trust in the Lord and never despair.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). Jesus who rose again from the dead gives us the guarantee that we too will rise with him and death is not the end. When God is with us, neither death nor any powers of the earth can do us any harm or separate us from the love of God. And today's Gospel strengthens us in this faith.

A song of Thanksgiving

Count your blessings name them one by one
Count your blessings see what God have done,
Count your blessings name them one by one
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

My dear friends, you all are blessings to me these six years of my journey at Prince of Peace. In my priestly life I have spent more years at Prince of Peace than any other parish. So Prince of Peace is my home. Behold how good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together. I am richly blessed knowing you all. I hereby apologize to anyone in one way or the other I have trampled upon and offended or disrespected anyone in any way to forgive me. I stand now to forgive anyone who have wronged me in anyway. Your Pastor Fr. Bill is a good priest, but many find it difficult to understand him. Find time to know this wonderful child of God Fr. Bill, your Pastor. He is human and has gone through hard times in life, try and love him and pray for him. Pray for your priests and love your priests.

Psalm 27

Chorus: One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek:
To dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life.

So otu ihe kamu nario naka Dinwenum, Ka mbiri
ka mbiri nulo nke Dinwenum na mbochi ndum nile.

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom do I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge of whom am I afraid?

Dinwenum bu ihe na nzopotam onye ka m ga atu egwu?
Dinwenum bu ebe mgbabam onye g'eyim egwu.

Glory be the Father, and the Son and the Holy
Spirit both now and forever.

Otito diri Nna na Nwa na Mmuo Nso n'uwatuwa nile.

Pray for me as I begin my new apostolate at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Candler. Thank you all for your love and care for me these six years I served at Prince of Peace. God bless you all. Love you all.