

Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

Wisdom Invites You to Eat

The church has the responsibility of safeguarding, protecting and administering sacraments, it takes its job very seriously. If you think about anything related to the church, it usually deals with a sacrament. Our laws, rules, guidelines in a way are meant to protect our sacraments and their availability. The reason why we value sacraments so much is because we believe they were instituted or given to us directly by Christ. As such, sacraments are a continuation of Jesus's work here on earth, sacraments allow us to grow closer to God, to feel his love, his graces, to receive his strength, encouragement, to help us both glorify him and sanctify the world.

Confirmation is one of these sacraments, in confirmation the Holy Spirit which we received in baptism is sealed. It is sealed in us, leaving an indelible mark and maturing the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us. I received the sacrament of confirmation as an adult and maybe someday you will hear my reversion story, but I remember going to confirmation classes and then to a confirmation retreat, during this retreat the facilitator was explaining the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. He told us that we had received them at baptism but that we were to pray to God for any particular gift that called our attention, that we were lacking or that we wanted more of. I remember praying and asking for the gift of **wisdom**... (yes I know, I am evidence that God doesn't always give us what we ask) But if you had asked me why I prayed or wanted wisdom, I guess I was intrigued by wisdom, I didn't understand it and hearing how King Solomon was the wisest king at his young age and how it helped him make decisions, I asked for wisdom... (I guess I didn't read the end of the story and how King Solomon went astray, his heart was not devoted to God).

I believe that as a whole, society values wisdom, we tend to look for "wise" people to counsel us, to guide us. We look at wisdom as an attribute to emulate or to desire, but I think that we look at wisdom specifically as being able to discern/decide, having knowledge, good judgement or just an element of experience. If I were to ask you to imagine a wise person, I would say that most of us would imagine an older person, this is because we associate wisdom with experience. The longer you live the more you have experienced or encountered, the longer you live the more mistakes you have made, the longer you live the more you have to guide on. There is a Spanish phrase that states "**The devil knows more because he is old than because he is a devil**" and it goes back to the idea that wisdom is associated with experience, with age, with knowledge... we can call that common wisdom. But today's readings paint a different picture of wisdom, which I would call true wisdom...

The book of proverbs which we attribute to King Solomon (the "wisest" king) describes wisdom as inviting people to a feast, a feast for all, but especially for those in need, those who are lacking. Come eat, drink at this feast, everything has been prepared and if you partake of the feast you may live. It is very interesting because wisdom is not being tied to just knowledge or

understanding, but it is being linked to eating, drinking and to life or death. St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians also tells us to be wise, but he states that we are to be wise by taking advantage of every opportunity and he gives us a great insight into what it is that we are to be wise about and make the most of... he states understand what is the will of the Lord, giving thanks always and for everything. To confuse things a little more, in the gospel Jesus is talking about living forever but he states that for us to live forever we need to eat his flesh, if we do, we will have eternal life. **What can we make of this?**

I believe that St. Paul is telling us that **true wisdom** is getting to know God's will and his will is for us to live forever, but he tells us that in order for us to live forever we need to eat. Just like how we will physically die if we don't eat physical food. Since we have this need, wisdom is inviting us to a feast, to a banquet, the table is set, and food is ready. This feast that we are invited to is the invitation to eat from the bread of life. To eat the body and blood of Jesus. St. Paul says that we are to give thanks always and for everything. Eucharist means to give thanks, we are being called to be eucharistic, to be thankful always.

The church safeguards and protects the sacraments because the sacraments were not only instituted by Christ, the sacraments **ARE** Christ. These sacraments allow us to receive **true wisdom**, which allows us to **know God's will**. God's will is for us to be saved, to live forever. Therefore, wisdom is inviting us to a feast, to a banquet, wisdom is inviting us to eat the bread of life, that will grant us eternal life.

Do you want to be wise? Welcome to the table... Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.