

February 9, 2020

**From Fr. Jim . . .**

**YOU are salt and YOU are light:** In the Gospel from Matthew for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, there are a couple of lines that stand out for our reflection this week. Did you notice that Jesus did not tell his disciples that they should be like salt or like light? He was rather definite and clear when he called them salt and light: "YOU are salt and YOU are light."



Just as salt is of no use in flavoring or preserving food if it has lost its own taste, so too are the disciples of no use if they fail to live as he teaches. So, too, just as light is of little use if it is put under a bushel basket so are the disciples of little use if they were to hide the light of salvation that they have received and not share it with others. The lamp of a disciple of Jesus Christ is meant not only to provide light for the individual disciples but for all those around. "A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden."

Another line in this Gospel that really strikes me is: "...that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." It is never really about us, it is more about God. It is never so much about what we do as it is about what God does through us. It is not so much about bringing people to ourselves for our own glorification but about bringing others to God in order to glorify God. Such are the characteristics of true disciples of Jesus Christ.

The first reading for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time is from the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah instructs the people to "share food with the hungry; shelter the homeless and the oppressed; clothe the naked and don't turn your back on your own." These are truly ways in which disciples of Jesus Christ can be salt and light for others and these are very good deeds in which others will give God the glory.

These readings really affirm and confirm our mission statement. This wonderful statement directs us to be fed at the Eucharistic table each week and we pray that we can leave the table going forth to love and serve the Lord: that is to be light and salt for others and through our good deeds, to assist others in praising God. As salt we flavor people's lives with the Good News living the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and we pass the light of salvation around by living these same works of mercy.

Again, please take some time to get to know our mission statement and to pray with it and to be thankful for how it is that God wants us to be light and salt and to give God the glory. You can find our mission statement on the front of this bulletin and again on our Webpage along with the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

As Salt and Light, may all that we are and do, give God glory and praise now and forever!

