

Dear Friends at St. Columbkille

I would like to share with you what I found on weekend Readings of 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time: 3 aspects of the Church's mission and the reason of Christianity.

**1) *The joyful generosity of God***, found in the first reading from the prophet **Isaiah 25**, with the picture of a great abundant banquet that remind us that God has great gift to give out. Jesus is the great gift God the father has given to us. In Jesus, God has given everything to us as we hear from **St. Paul to Romans 8: 32** "He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?". Our God is generously happy and rejoice given us his gifts, and more importantly, the gift of gifts, his beloved son, Jesus.

**2) *The world is not willing to receive the Good News of Jesus***. It is not easy being Christian today. The world is using religion to control and destroy the beauty of creation, to confuse and manipulate the conscience of people that remain alienated and disconnected from the essential of this life.

Realistically speaking, we cannot expect the entire world to welcome the message of Jesus at once, for that reason the church must work tirelessly in his mission inviting to dialogue, inviting to love and respect each other, inviting to repent from sin and seek reconciliation, inviting to seek life and peace for all until the second coming of Jesus.

**3) *We are all invited to the Kingdom of God***, good and bad alike according to the parable in **Matt 22:10**. We all are invited, we all must be invited.

\*Like the parable about the net that was cast into the sea and caught all kinds of fish.

When it was full, the men pulled it ashore. Then they sat down and sorted the good fish into containers, but threw the bad away....**Matt.13: 47-48**

\*Like the parable explaining: 'if you pull the weeds now, you might uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds, tie them to burned them, then gather the wheat into my barn.' **Matt. 13: 29-31**

In the parable about the Kingdom of Heaven on **Matt 22**, after the original invited guests refused to attend to the wedding feast, other guests were freely invited but one among them, was not dressed for the occasion indicating his lack of interest to be there. He was taken out and the parable concludes with these words: "many are invited, but few are chosen". It is not God who excludes us, rejects us, but we ourselves. It is unfortunate how some people, in the name of God can determine who can or cannot be worthy of God's grace. That is not the mission of the church, neither of any of us. It is why we should not judge when we know people we may think are away from God, when probably are closer than us or the other way around. The mission of the church as people of God and as an institution is to keep inviting to conversion to Jesus, to accept him as savior.

Let us continue celebrating, even during the pandemic and with all social and political tension we face in our society. Let us celebrate our faith as we workshop the day of the Lord with the Holy Mass. It is also a banquet celebration where we are invited to meet with Jesus and receive the Gift of gifts.

**Bishop Frank Dewane**, Bishop of Venice in Florida has extended the dispensation from obligation to attend Sunday Mass until November 28.

**Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** we will start 7:00am Mass and the participation of eucharistic ministers helping with communion at all masses. They are required to attend a special training this Saturday, October 17 at 10:00am.

**Communion under the Portico continues on Sunday from 12noon to 12:30pm** for those who watch the mass on TV (Our diocesan Mass is on Sunday 10:30am on local Fox 4) There is no need to exit your car in the driveway of the Church.

**Communal Rosary and Marian Novena, Saturdays at 8:00am**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** under the Portico is on Saturdays from 8:30am to 9:30am.

**Gospel Forum for Women** Tuesdays at 9:00am at the Grotto (Ministry Center Room 1) please, bring your Bible, keep your face mask inside the building and observe the distancing.

**Men Fellowship Group** is meeting online using Zoom on Mondays at 7:00pm. For additional information call Tom Holland at 508-0668.

**St. Columbkille Thrift Shop Annual Christmas Open House** Sunday, October 25, 2020 from 1:00 to 4:00pm

**Trunk or Treat!** Saturday, October 17th after 5:00pm Mass in the Ministry Center parking lot.

**Youth Group 2020-2021 Confirmation Preparation / Faith Formation for Children / Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) Classes** via Zoom, for additional information please see page 6 in our e-bulletin.

**Pastoral visit of Bishop Dewane for confirmation**, Sunday, November 15 at 11:00am Mass. I encourage all lay ministers to attend this mass.

When you come to church you must remember to bring your face mask and keep it on out of respect to others; practice social distancing when you find a seat and when you come up to receive Holy Communion; use hand sanitizer near to the door once you enter and when you leave the church. Families may stay together and if someone feels sick they should stay home. Your donations and offertory envelopes can be dropped off before or after mass in one of the donation boxes located throughout the Church. Your financial support is very appreciated also by mail or electronically, please, contact Sergio Figueroa, the administrative coordinator if you need help.

You can always contact the clergy at (239) 634-2927 or email me at [lgonzalez@stcolumbkille.com](mailto:lgonzalez@stcolumbkille.com)

In Jesus,

Father Lorenzo