

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, July 9, 2017

This gospel by Matthew is so uplifting. It brings back memories of taking walks with my children and grandchildren. They could make a 15 minute walk last 45 minutes because they would continually stop to look at all the little things along the way that I was too busy to notice. There is a quote from Archbishop Tuto that says, "Greet every new experience with the word wonderful. It is indeed that ability to see wonder and surprise in every new experience and encounter that is the core aspect of joy." That is the heart and mind of the little ones. When Matthew says the Father has hidden these things from the wise and learned and shows them to the little ones, I have to pause and wonder at what price do we become "wise and learned"?

When do our children stop finding wonder in everything God has placed before them? We want to offer our children so many opportunities but that often results in a schedule that is so full that all we do is rush from one practice or one event to another. As a family you no longer have the time to take those 45 minute walks. Have you ever scheduled an hour or 30 minutes or even 15 minutes for doing nothing, to allow yourselves to be still and be open to hearing God speak to you? There was a sermon by Father John when he spoke about the fish asking everyone around him "Can you help me find the water?" He related that to our search for God. We keep trying different approaches, different books and different people to help us find God. But God is all around us. Take a moment. Feel the air on every inch of your skin. That is how close to us God is. He is always there even when we are not searching for Him. I often imagine Him holding me like the father in the picture of the Prodigal son. Assuring me I am not alone.

We need to take time during the day to feel God's presence. We need to have faith that God is there ready to share our burdens if we just take the time to ask. I think the best image of this was in a sermon by Deacon Frank when he talked about being in the pool and telling his grandchildren "Jump, I will catch you." That is the faith we need to have in God. On those days when we feel we are too stressed and too busy to pray, that is when we really need to pray for God's help. He will catch us. I saw a quote the other day that went something like this. Jesus said, "Take my hand and let me lead the way. Be still and know that we can do this together." If we take the time to be still, be grateful, find wonder in God's creation we will find so much peace and joy in our lives. Stop resisting happiness. Take that 45 minute walk.

Holly Grasch