

Peace is...knowing the wisdom of God

Wisdom 6: 12 "Wisdom...is...found by those who seek her."

1 Thes 4: 15,17 "... that we who are alive...shall always be with the Lord."

Matthew 25: 13 "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Reflection:

Do we seek the wisdom of God? Are we spiritually alive? Are we aware that our souls are thirsting for the Lord, our God? Are we prepared for the Lord to return? When we spend time with today's readings, these questions arise.

It is up to us, as individuals, to prepare our souls to meet the Lord. There is no time to spare, because conversion takes time, and we know not when we will be called out of this life. God gives us free will, a tremendous gift which comes with responsibility. Are we using it to choose God's way? Are we moving through life deliberately, with the goal of eternal life? The kingdom of heaven begins on earth! If we are moving toward heaven, then we must be focused on the things which are of God. If we are truly alive spiritually, then we are working at growing spiritually. That means we deliberately make the most of each opportunity in our day to love others and to do what is good.

Are we living by the letter of the law, or the spirit of the law? Do we go to Mass out of obligation or as an act of thanks and praise and honor to our God who gives us everything? Do we help others because we have to or out of love?

"As the confirmed, we walk with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.¹ Wisdom enables us to see the world from God's viewpoint, which can help us grasp the purpose and plan of God. It grants us the long-range view of history, examining the present in the light of the past and the mystery of the future. It saves us from the illusion that the spirit of the times is our only guide."² The gifts of the Holy Spirit and God's grace are available to us. Let us seek them and use them for the greater good.

If we are faithfully doing what we are supposed to be doing, then we will be ready. If we are generously caring for others, doing what is in their best interest, then we are on our way. We see that the world is starving for love and peace and mercy. We are not yet perfect in giving love and peace and mercy! Therefore, our work is not finished.

Action:

- *Reflect on your call to serve. Recognize the gifts you have to share. Take a step in using your gifts to serve others.*
- *Attend Bible study, which is on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. in English in the Sacred Heart rectory, and is on Mondays at 7 p.m. in Spanish in Sacred Heart Church (through 11/28, then again in January).*
- *Attend an Adult Faith Enrichment session, presented on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m., in the Rose Room of Sacred Heart parish. Learn about the history of our Church.*
- *Participate in the Thanksgiving Food Drive, by donating non-perishable food items, and/or by packing grocery bags for less fortunate families, which takes place after 11 a.m. Mass at SJB, 11/20.*
- *Attend the interdenominational Thanksgiving prayer service, hosted this year by Plymouth Congregational Church, at Stanton & 119th, at 2 p.m. on November 20.*
- *Pray for our RCIA candidates, that they will grow in wisdom, as they participate in the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of the Catechumenate @ 4:30 pm Mass this weekend.*

"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

¹ The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel [Right Judgment], Fortitude [Courage], Knowledge, Piety [Reverence], and Fear of the Lord [Wonder and Awe in God's Presence]. from: United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, USCCB, Washington, D. C., 2006, p.108. ² Ibid., p.208