



November 12, 2023

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

*"Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is readily perceived  
by those who love her..." Wisdom 6:12*



Dear Friends;

I recently saw an ad for a new book. The header said *"Eternal Life does not wait for heaven. You have it now!"* Today's readings invite us to be ready to seize the moment when Lady Wisdom or the Bridegroom appears. Our first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, describes wisdom as the desire that entices us to the eternal. God is all around us. Lady Wisdom reveals the divine behind every moment of our existence.

One commentator refers to our parable from Matthew as the *"Wise and Foolish Teenagers."* It is good not to over analyze the story, by asking questions like, "Why didn't the wise girls share with the foolish ones?" *The purpose of the parable, Jesus narrates, is to tell us what God is like and how we should respond.* Will our response spring from a wise openness to God's movement in our lives. Or will we be like the dull-witted who will never be ready?

Reflecting on the Gospel, I thought of the Christmas letter (1513) attributed to a Franciscan friar, Fra Giovanni Giocondo. He urges his listener to realize the divine Presence in all the moments of life.

*There is nothing I can give you which you have not got;  
but there is much, very much, that, while I cannot give it, you can take.  
No Heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. Take Heaven!  
No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little instant. Take peace!*

*The gloom of this world is but a shadow. Behind it, yet within our reach, is joy.  
There is radiance and glory in the darkness, could we but see;  
and to see, we only have to look...I beseech you to look.*

*Life is so generous a giver, but we, judging its gifts by their covering,  
cast them away as ugly or heavy or hard.  
Remove the covering, and you will find beneath it a living splendor,  
woven of love, by wisdom, with power.  
Welcome it, grasp it, and you touch the angel's hand that brings it to you.  
Everything we call a trial, a sorrow, or a duty: believe me, that angel's hand is there.  
The gift is there, and the wonder of an overshadowing Presence.  
Our joys, they too conceal diviner gifts.*

*Life is so full of meaning and purpose, so full of beauty—beneath its covering—that you will find  
that earth but cloaks your heaven. Courage, then to claim it: that is all!*

The bride and groom are here, and the wedding of Heaven and Earth unfolds before us! Celebrate!

Peace,

*fr Ron*

Esta carta está en español en el sitio web: [www.anne.church](http://www.anne.church)