



Eucharistic Food For Thought 3rd week of Advent, "Gaudete Sunday"

The image of the Savior that we find in this week's Scripture readings are of the one, anointed by God to send glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners. It is the image of a Savior who doesn't come to get but to give.

This beautiful reading from Isaiah reminds us of what Pope John Paul II has called the great jubilee in the new millennium.

This is what the pope has said:

"If we recall that Jesus came to 'preach to the poor' how can we fail to lay greater emphasis on the church's preferential option for the poor and the outcast? Indeed, it has to be said that a commitment to justice and peace in a world like ours, marked by so many conflicts and intolerable social and economic inequalities, is a necessary condition for the preparation and celebration of the Jubilee."

So as we sit before the Lord, perhaps we might ask him to help us see what it is that we should be focusing on here and now that we can or need to for there to be joy not just in our lives but to those whom we meet too...

Jesus, we now can clearly perceive your words, that if there is no justice, there can be no jubilee!

For we as God's children bring up our gifts for God at each and every mass, no matter when or where it is celebrated in the world by the Church. So let us diligently watch this ritual in a spirit of just prayer and always remember: When there is justice true justice, there is jubilee;

Perhaps one subject we might imagine is to be walking in our faith like John the Baptist, then we to might be able to see Jesus standing among the poor and forgotten; as we too were once those same lost and wounded children, but now what is our role towards them to be?

Like John the Baptist we too ask for the ability to be engaged with a special request of us from Jesus this week, to give a special gift that he is wanting to put into our hearts and then share with others.

Let us close our time in Eucharistic adoration with giving hearts, minds and love of neighbor as of self, for where there is the giving of real gifts from the heart, there is the celebration of a real Christmas! And as such so the Blessings of God will be forever, as we joyfully acclaim...

Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end... Amen

Deacon Hicks