



Homily for 01/22/23

Very Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, JV

3rd Sun. in Ordinary Time - Word of God Sunday

The captain of a ship looked into the dark night and saw a light in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message, “Alter your course ten degrees south.” He promptly received a reply, “Alter your course ten degrees north.”

The furious captain sent another message, “Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a captain!” Soon another reply was received, “Alter your course ten degrees north. I am seaman third class Jones.”

The captain sent a final message, “Alter your course ten degrees south. I am a battleship.” The reply was, “Alter your course ten degrees north. I am a lighthouse.”

Christianity as handed down to us in the Catholic Church does not enjoy the popularity it used to amongst the members of society. It doesn’t even enjoy popularity amongst some members of the Church. There are so many asking us to alter our course.

What are we to do? Are we supposed to be the one to alter or do we demand in our humble sincerity that truth is very rocky and hard and doesn’t yield easily to hubris and willful blindness.

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time has been designated by Pope Francis as Word of God Sunday.

What does the lighthouse of revelation spell out to us?

Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Incidentally today is also the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, which, up until last year, was the unjust law that foisted upon our nation the unholy sacrament of death. Even though that unjust law has been stricken from the rolls of judicial fiat, it still remains an issue for the Church and society that has been so battered by the hurricane of selfishness and relativism that has tossed our society about.

Our position as adherents to objective truth and believers in divine revelation is that the every human life is holy and respect for that life is demanded by the moral law. This is the anchor we have that grounds us, just something solid in the ever tossing seas of public perception and sentimental arguments. Without the anchor of the inviolable dignity of every human life, society will flounder upon the rocky shoals of relativism and convenience.

We do well in our day to heed the navigational aids that our God has endowed us with as human beings and recipients of the divine image and likeness, as well as divine revelation, coming from the Word of God and the Sacred Tradition of the Church. Let us put out the strong anchor with which the Catholic Church is endowed through her sacred tradition, the wisdom inherited from our fathers, in faith received from the very hands of God. Even as the storms rage and even as many jettison their anchors and disregard the lighthouse of revelation, let us stand firm and remain tethered to that which will allow us to weather the storm - Jesus Christ, the rock of our salvation.