

March 17-18, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Second Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-32

Is life supposed to be fair? What exactly, after all, is 'fair'? Our capitalist system of economics is that we 'earn our keep', those that do more, get more; those that do less, well, they (according to our system) should get less. Ahh...but this weekend in the Gospel of Luke we gain God's perspective of what is 'fair'...which is very much at odds with ours. So much at 'odds' that we might be inclined to think that God is unfair. Which brings us back to the question of 'What is fair?' Should the young man who uses drugs, sleeps around and pretty much makes nothing of his life...(but perhaps has a good heart)...be treated in an equal manner to the single woman who has worked two jobs to support her kids while also helping out at their school and regularly donating blood to the Red Cross? To us, the answer would probably be easy....but in light of today's Gospel we perceive that God nonetheless draws all sorts of people to himself...and sets a very low bar. So, if God is not capitalist at heart, what is he? God is God...and he beckons each of us, as we are able, to draw close to himself. BUT, it is the relationship itself that is of greatest importance, the intensity of the relationship is incidental. Which of course flies in the face of those that decry Cafeteria-Catholics (those that pick and choose what they will honor), those that stress strict adherence to the rules of religion, those that desire to make faith into an exclusive club. Is there nothing to be gained by deepening one's relationship with God? Sure, of course...but it consists of intangibles: courage, fortitude, delight in the Lord, comfort and ease in God's presence, peace of heart and mind. But, sometimes, even those who don't work as hard as everybody else can have these intangible virtues as well. Is God fair or unfair? I suppose it is determined by whatever 'expectations' one has placed on God...but one of our parish priests spoke about 'expectations' a couple of weeks ago in his homily, so perhaps it is time to tie these mysterious things together?

On This St. Patrick's Weekend, all things Irish are celebrated and enjoyed and honorary citizenship is extended to all who desire a wee bit of the Irish in their blood this day. Please be mindful of the upcoming events listed in our Bulletin: this Friday we have our first-ever Fish Fry and of course the events of Lent really start heating up in two weeks as we enter Holy Week. Taking a Bulletin with you as you depart might be a keen idea. Make sure you obtain your Good Friday Prayer Breakfast reservations, the team is outside and accepting your reservation requests after all the Masses. Please stop and enjoy our particularly spirited Irish hospitality this weekend...sure beats corned beef and cabbage. As the roads rise to greet you, remember, you are loved. FKB