

November 10-11, 2007

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Second Maccabees 7:1-14

Second Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Luke 20:27-38

Human words fail when used to describe God. We are left with allegories, representations from nature, images in art, awareness of our senses, in other words we are left trying to describe something of which we have no concept and no manner of conveying. St. John spoke of God 'being love', and that is not bad...but what exactly is love if not a combination of human responses, commitments and attachments? We humans like things to be tangible: 'money in the bank', a 'bird in the hand', looking someone 'in the eye', etc. Hence we use descriptive examples of God that seemingly reduce the Alpha and the Omega to the guy right around the corner on the other block, a person just like us. How deceptively easy to create God in our own image (thus God must be a Democrat or Republican, just like us? Perhaps God is an American? Gosh, even with the fires burning and war raging, God must be concerned with the outcome of my soccer game!) With the liturgical clock ticking toward the end of the Church year, this weekend we are reminded that God and heaven are not containable within our human constructs. 'Silly goose, people don't marry in heaven....' is the tone of Jesus' response to those who wish to use mere human logic and experience to describe the eternal. And yet....the selection from the Book of Maccabees speaks of the ability to remain committed and covenanted to that which we do not understand; the seven brothers with their mother accepting being tortured in their refusal to deny their faith. As much as there is much to be perceived and understood with our human senses and abilities, there is much more that exists that defies each description, measurement or scientific analysis. What exactly is 'trust'? What exactly is 'love'? What exactly is 'commitment'? Why are some people capable of sacrificing for something they cannot see...but all of us sense....while others are not? If only the measurable is important, why should we be loyal or honest, or ethical, or moral or polite? Is civilization marked only by indoor plumbing and electricity or might it also be a respectful appreciation of that which exists but which we cannot physically grasp or measure? As we recently saw with the wild fires, physical creations come and go; stars erupt and go nova; polar ice caps melt, people are born and someday die. With Thanksgiving Day just a wishbone away, for what intangibles, things that are not easily perceivable or describable, do you give thanks? After all, isn't Thanksgiving about a lot more than just good gravy and pumpkin pie?

Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Community as we approach the end of the Church Year. Please make sure to take a Bulletin with you on your way home, lots of things coming up and you don't want to miss out. Of special importance is our annual THANKSGIVING DINNER on Monday, November 19th. Come one, come all and get out of the house to enjoy a festive meal with one another as the FAMILY of Corpus Christi. Don't forget to pick up some SCRIP to use in getting your holiday supplies...and you can probably browse our Autumn Merchant Fair today for suitable hostess gifts or even some pre-Christmas shopping. As these festive weeks immerse you in sights, smells, sounds and tastes, remember, you are loved. FKB