

Father Paul's Ponderings

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord, will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."

Today's gospel challenges us to continually grow in our vocation as intentional disciples!

Can you imagine dying and facing the Lord who would say to us "I don't know you!"

And we would say: "but I went to mass every Sunday. I did this and did that: all good things!... and... and ...and..."

And He might say to us "I don't know you!"

This week and next, I am stressing the call that God gives each of us: vocations. So many Catholics limit this word "vocation" to the religious life: sisters, brothers, deacons, priests. At Baptism Christ calls each of us into His personal life; to die with Him and to Rise with Him; to be intimately in love with our Father and with the Holy Spirit. This baptismal call is the foundation on which we spend the rest of our lives trying to hear God call us to bring His Good News into the various aspects of our lives. Christ is calling baptized politicians; Christ is calling "stay at home" moms or moms working outside the home. Christ is calling high-tech workers to make a difference. Christ is calling those married and those single. Christ is calling for Godly families. And Christ is calling some few to be ordained as priests, to enter the religious life as sisters or brothers, to enter into the single life in different professions. All these vocations are interrelated.

As "Priest", I respond to God's call to work with and for all of you, to help you hear and to support you as you hear God's call to you; to go out into the world and transform it! It is for you and your mission that I have and continue to hear God call. Beginning with Eucharist and all the Sacraments, I celebrate Christ's actions of love and forgiveness for you and with you, that you may be Christ's presence in our confused world.

Can we pray this week and next for each of us to hear Christ's words calling us to do the will of our Father?

And to respond by doing the will of our Father?

Father Paul