

24th Week in OT Cycle B
Weekday 3/Wednesday **St. CORNELIUS, CYPRIAN BISHOP MARTYRS**
1 Timothy 3:14-16, Luke 7:31-35

In the gospel today Jesus is comparing the people around him to children in a marketplace. And to get his point across, he goes on to highlight how something is TERRIBLY WRONG with the behavior of this generation.

As we all know, before the eyes of God we are all children. As such, the heart of a child when formed by loving parents is PURE AS CRYSTAL - *untainted by pretense* – they are **open to love**: kind, trusting; Believing all things and people.

And so it follows that if such children were to hear someone *playing the flute* they would respond by *dancing*...
If they saw another *weeping* - they would respond with a *touch of compassion*...

In other words, a child untainted by pretense would simply **ENTER INTO RELATIONSHIP** with whomever it was that presented themselves to their *World of Experience*...

Sadly, as pointed out by our Lord, such is not the case of our generation. Rather, he describes the reaction of the crowds to HIS PRESENCE like what could be expected from **a group of misfit, self-absorbed children** – who, having distorted the very essence of what it means *to be a child*... arrogantly insist on misinterpreting "THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES!!"

The same experiences was shared by the Saints we celebrate this day, St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian, who lived during the 3rd century. A TIME when Christians were under fierce persecution throughout the Roman Empire.

The most common charges that were brought to the Emperor's attention whenever Christians were caught in action were four-fold: **Christians were accused of # 1.**

1. **cannibalism**, eating body and blood
2. **Atheism**, rejecting Roman gods
3. **Treason**, owed their allegiance to one God and not those of the Empire
4. **Incest**, gathering together for love feasts, brothers and sisters.

As it was during the days of Jesus, as it continued to be during the days of St. Cornelius and Cyprian, so it is with the TIMES in which we live. For as we all know, in many parts of our world today – **especially for us as Catholics** – we are continually being judged and accused by others thanks to UNSUBSTANTIATED SURFACE BELIEFS and popular opinion.

In the end, **Jesus gave His Life in Witness to that which he claimed to be. Both Pope Cornelius and St. Cyprian** gave their lives in witness to the Truth behind the person of Jesus Christ – **a TRUTH that goes much deeper than Surface Beliefs and Modern Day Opinions**.

As Our Blessed Lord prayed for us: **"I pray not only for these, but also for those who through their teaching will come to believe in me."** (John 17:20) Likewise, we are being invited to *pray in a special way for those who misunderstand us as Catholics* – to pray that we might be humble and loving towards them rather than being **Defensive and Aggressive**.

For at the End of the Times, as the Son of Man assured us: **"Wisdom is vindicated by all her children!"**

And it is to THIS REALITY that our lives as Catholics bear witness: For, *in His Infinite Wisdom*, it has pleased our Heavenly Father to gather **US**... His *adopted children* - here this day! For through His Son, he has Played the Flute for us – He has heard our Wailing – and now He Comes... He Comes, in this Holy Eucharist, to **ENTER INTO RELATIONSHIP** with each of Our Life Experiences **in order to 'set straight' that which has gone terribly wrong with all generations.**