

Homily for November 13, 2019

Wednesday 32nd Week of Ordinary Time

One of the most perplexing questions we can face when considering the political systems that have characterized human civilizations for so many centuries, is why are they so often corrupt? This is a perennial question and one addressed head on in today's Old Testament reading. Here the one who is the truly good leader, God, speaks. He declares that to govern others is a responsibility entrusted to leaders by God and he is the one who will ultimately hold such leaders accountable, for good or ill.

This passage depicts leaders who did not rule right, or keep the law of God. To lead lawfully requires of leaders they rule justly. Justice is the virtue by which that which is rightly due to citizens is to be given to them. As Christians we are to respect and abide by the States Law, unless to do goes contrary to our faith. In times like this we will seek to change the laws, or exercise civil disobedience.

We understand that in this world justice is not always exercised. Today in Canada, as Catholics, we see this especially in relation to the injustice towards the unborn and the dying. Over the weekend there was a Conference held in Calgary entitled "Change is in the Air", that discussed how a younger generation is thinking prayerfully and strategically how to address right to life issues in a variety of ways; most specially in relation to legislative influence.

The Conference reminded me that we are to never tire to work towards justice being extended to the most vulnerable while recognizing that those in positions of power will not extend this justice. This is where we need to have the perspective expressed in the Wisdom of Solomon.

***But a strict inquiry is in store for the mighty.
To you then, O monarchs, my words are directed,
so that you may learn wisdom and not transgress.¹***

While in this life justice may not be extended as it should, God is always desiring to work so hearts and minds of leaders will be changed. However, this requires a patience and perseverance in the face of opposition that will be tireless, understanding that for those leaders who have enacted injustice that severe judgment falls on those in high places.²

May we take to heart the words that conclude our Wisdom reading:

***For they will be made holy who observe holy things in holiness,
and those who have been taught them will find a defense.***

¹ [*The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition*](#). (1993). (Wis 6:8–9). Washington, DC: National Council of Churches of Christ.

² [*The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition*](#). (1993). (Wis 6:5). Washington, DC: National Council of Churches of Christ.

*¹¹ Therefore set your desire on my words;
long for them, and you will be instructed.³*

We will always live in a world where there are leaders who are just and those who are unjust. May we follow in the example of just leaders by working for justice in our own spheres of influence and thereby grow in holiness while at the same time seeking to influence society in keeping with God's good and perfect justice.

³ [*The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition*](#). (1993). (Wis 6:10–11). Washington, DC: National Council of Churches of Christ.