

JULY 16, 2020
Wednesday of the 15th Week in OT/Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Matthew 11: 28-30

“COME TO ME.”

There is a 10-year old boy with three siblings, two older brothers and one younger sister. The two older brothers were slowly separating themselves to house chores as they advance in age and studies. The washing and drying the dishes after meals which his older brothers use to do were passed on to the boy and his younger sister. Their complaining fell upon deaf ears and their parents seems unresponsive and having any pity on them. The boy and his sister felt over-burdened and unduly treated, even without any compensation. One day, after meal, the boy said, “Enough of this injustice,” and he announced, “I was going to run away from home starting today!” Everybody was shocked but his Mom asked, “Do you want me to wrap you a lunch?” The boy decided to stay.

The older we get, we experience the truths of hard work and the heavy burdens of life not just physical labor but most especially making difficult life decisions, the burdens of life such as the death of loved ones, disappointments in relationships and not having enough money. The injustices of the society, some corrupt and insensitive leaders, the uncertainties of health situation, no work, and a lot more. We even heard people were despised, hated, treated brutally, and even killed because of their faith, ideologies, colors, and opinions. These things are overwhelming. We are affected by these things personally and as a society. Sometimes we ask who will fix this, and we realized no one political party or persons had all the solutions. It takes a lot of difficult and tough work to build a safer world.

In our gospel, Jesus is speaking to us personally: “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. For my yoke is easy, and my

burden is light.”¹ He is offering us the rest that we need and deserved. My brothers and sisters, “By His intimate relationship with us, God makes our yoke easy and our burden light. He is conscious that life can be weary and burdensome, yet does not make any false, easy promises. The yoke will remain, as will the burden, but with His help they become easy and light. The difference is made by the presence of Jesus who is “gentle and humble of heart.” The God who is with us always, promising ultimate peace at the end, is a gentle and loving Lord.”²

My brothers and sisters, as today we experience uncertainties, unrest whether it is personal, emotional, political, or social, Jesus Christ is here, offering Himself. Let us take His invitation seriously and let us find rest and peace in Him. The word He spoke was true before, and it will be true even today. Are we tired and overburdened? Come to Jesus, He will refresh us and give us peace. As we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, let us ask her intercession to give us patience and perseverance to carry our burden and ease our troubled self and the society. Our lady of Mt. Carmel, pray for us. Amen.

¹ Mt 11:28, 30 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

² www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie/