

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

October 25, 2009

Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning. Today we hear in the Gospel about Bartimaeus the blind man. He was told to shut up. He knew Jesus was coming and he cried out. Everybody else said, "Sshhh, be quiet." And what did he do, he cried out all the more until Jesus hears him and He says, "Call him to Me." They say to Him, "Take courage, get up. Jesus is calling you."

Friday night I came into the church, the main church here. It is what I like to do about eleven o'clock to say my rosary. I sitting here and I put my breviary down, I started saying the rosary and then I hear all of this singing in the church. No, I was not having a vision of angels in case you are wondering. But I am sitting there thinking Fr. Wright must be here singing somewhere. So I am looking. Don't see Fr. Wright. And I am thinking where is this singing coming from? Then I looked and in the back of the church kneeling on the steps, the outside step, the top step is a street person. And this street person is adoring Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. His hands up, praising God saying, "Holy, holy, holy, holy." And I am sure if the police or somebody came by they would say, "Get out of here. What are you doing? You are messing up the people next door. There is a hospital next door." Or they could have said, "Get out of here." But I was exhaltant. That here was this man who came late at night to be with Jesus in the middle of the night to praise Him, to adore Him, to worship Him and to cry out, holy, holy, holy, holy. No matter who this man was, he knew Who was in this church, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

If only we could have that same faith as the blind man to cry out to Jesus. Bartimaeus knew that if he asked Jesus for something that Jesus could fulfill it. To have that faith that no matter what that Jesus can fulfill our needs. Think about what happened here. We get to come into the very presence of Almighty God. One of the first things I did when I became pastor and every time I do stuff people get mad and leave and different things. It is just part of the reality I guess. But everything I do, there is a reason for it. One of the first things we did here when I became pastor I made them put away the bulletins. Nobody gets a bulletin before you walk in the church. You would have thought I called Jesus the devil when I did that. "Oh Father I cannot believe that." Why, why would I stop giving the bulletin before Mass? People would read them. "Well is that bad Father?" Yes! Jesus Christ is sitting right here and you come in and read a bulletin instead of talking to Jesus. You see what we don't get it. For instance I have the rosary said right before Mass. How often do I get up before the 11 o'clock Mass and say, "Be still. Be quiet." Or sometimes I am not so kind. "Shut up. It is time." Why? Because people come in to this church and they will talk with each other and yet here is Christ right here, the King of kings, the Lord of lords. All the angels and saints bow down in adoration before Him and we are busy gossiping with each other, talking with each other instead of being with the Lord.

You see the problem? Do you see what has to happened? We have got to have that faith first of all that we are crying out to Jesus. That we know He is here and we cry out to Him. We are not talking to each other. We are crying out to Him, Jesus. Then when we come into His presence we need to get up and take courage. Jesus is calling you. You are here today because Jesus is calling you. Then when you are in His presence, He who is right here looks at you and says, "What do you want me to do for you?" Does anyone here have any needs? Any wants in particular? I don't know. Nobody here has any needs that we can bring before the Lord and cry out, "Lord, I want to see. Lord, I need healed. Lord, I need peace. Lord,

I need to be pure. Lord, I need to do," whatever. Doesn't anyone have any needs? It should be so silent in this church because we are all crying out to God before every Mass, "Lord look at me. These are my needs," and we cry out to Him believing that those needs we truly bring before Him that He can do anything with.

So it takes that faith inside of us that says, "Yes Lord, I know You are here. Yes Lord You can do anything. Then when we believe that these are my needs and I know that You will take care of them according to Your will." And isn't that enough? Even if we come in here and we say, "Lord I need healed of this and that." And He says, "No," for now, "I have a different plan but I will give you peace. Be still, here." He will take care of your needs. Not always your wants but your needs. What we really have to do is come before Him, really cry out to Him, really believe in Him, really give Him our needs as we are in His presence, believing that He is God and He can do anything.

So the call today is that when we come into the presence of God we realize whose presence we are in. That the time we are in His presence whether we are here, whether we are at the chapel, whether we pass a church, when we come into His presence, think about that guy on Friday night who as he was walking by stopped, came up the steps and worshipped Jesus Christ. When we pass a church do we realize what we are doing? There is the place that Christ is physically present. Do we stop? Do we cry out? Because here is Jesus who asks you every day, "What do you want me to do for you?" and how we miss it. We just go on doing everything else instead of being in this dialogue and crying out in faith, "Jesus I want," and fill in the blank. Your faith has saved you. May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.