

August 21, 2011

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time - Cycle A

Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning. Today we hear in the Gospel what revelation is. Revelation. We are a religion based on revelation. This is the core of who we are. That means that God tells us who He is, we do not tell Him who He is. You know and that is what people have done throughout the ages. You know we create our own God. We have our own thoughts. But revelation is something totally different. You know Jesus starts this week by asking what people say about Him. But get this, He doesn't really care because it doesn't make who He is. So He says, "Who do people say I am or who the Son of man is?" And they take that Times Week News poll that we have talked about before. "Thirty percent say you are John the Baptist. Twenty percent say you are this. Ten percent say you are this." They all voted on it and they were all wrong. So it doesn't really matter who you think Jesus Christ is. It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter what Times News Week, if they put Jesus on the front. It doesn't matter when the Discovery Channel says who is Jesus? It doesn't matter all those things you watch. It doesn't matter because it is all speculation and opinion. And it is us pushing what we believe on to the God of the Universe. And that is what He is trying to show us. That revelation is so different. That is where God shows us who He is.

Again, let's pretend like you have never met me before. Some of you might be very excited. And I am hiding up here. I am behind this big curtain. And people come up to you and say, "Hey, who do you think Father Larry is?" And some of you say, "Well, I think Father Larry is 6'2", blond hair, blue eyes, and is very gentle." Wrong thing! Someone else says, "Who do you think Father Larry is?" "I think Father Larry is a man who is about 5'11", about 250 pounds, and he is very quiet." Wrong answer. Everybody comes up with their own idea about who I am. Now, very nice, some of you might get part of it right. Some of you might get the part that I am a man. Ohh, okay, some of you get little glimpses of who I am. Now, revelation means to tear down the veil or tear down the curtain. So I tear down the veil. Or I tear down the curtain. And I reveal myself to you. Here I am. 6'1/2", 205 pounds, gray hair, brown eyes, and I am proud, arrogant, and aggressive. Now some of you might say, "Well, I think I like my image better." Very nice, but it has nothing to do with reality. This is who I am. You accept it or you do not. You can't tell me who I am.

The same with God. We accept who He reveals Himself to be. And when God reveals Himself to us, He reveals Himself to us according to the word of God today. He reveals Himself to us through His Church. Thank you. He looks at Peter and says, "Blessed are you, no mere man has revealed this to you, but my Heavenly Father," revelation, and then He says, "You for your part are rock and on this rock I will build My Church." Thank you very much. That Jesus Christ did not come to find a Bible Society. He did not come to find a library. He's come to found a Church. You know if you ever read the Catechism, which I encourage you to do, the opening line to the Catechism, which we talked about before, when John Paul wrote the opening line to the Catechism it says, Guarding the deposit of the faith is the mission

entrusted by Christ to His church.” Guarding the deposit of the faith is the mission entrusted by Christ to His church. It isn’t to feed the poor. It isn’t to proclaim the Gospel. It isn’t to love one another. It isn’t to believe. The main purpose of the Church according to the Church’s own teaching is to guard the deposit of the faith. Why, because it is the faith that teaches us we must love one another. It is revelation that teaches us that God is Trinity. It is revelation that teaches us that we need to take care of the poor. That is what it most important. So the main function of the Church is to guard what Jesus taught us and then teach it.

This morning when I went to the Word of God it came to John, chapter 17, verse 17. It said, “Consecrate them in truth.” That what God wants us is to be standing in truth. Now again, a couple weeks ago I was on line. There was something on one of my You Tube things. Someone says, “I won’t listen to Father Larry any more. He went against the teaching of the Church way too many times.” And I am like, “What?” I wanted to start with this woman and say are you kidding me? Are you nuts? But I didn’t. Once again I kept my mouth shut. Twice in a row. That is pretty good. But the reality is, that is all I ever do is teach the teachings of Church. If I ever find myself to be wrong or if anyone ever says something to me, “Father that is not true,” I recant. Because who is right, Father Larry’s opinion or the teaching of the Church? The Church. Nobody cares about Father Larry’s opinion.

And see that is the point. That has to be will all of us. That our job is to bring forth what the Church teaches. Now again, you might have struggles with the Church. I have struggles with the Church. After all of the garbage that has happened in the Church here and in Ireland and all the scandals, but notice it has never been from the teaching authority of the Church, it has always been from the administrative authority. Administrative is where we get into problems. That’s when our egos come forth. That is when our sinfulness comes forth. That’s when we sit there and try to do things our way instead of God’s way. It has happened again and again and again in the Church. Should you be angry with that? Yes! You should be complaining, jumping up and down, and saying who the hell are you? We need to stand up for the truth even when it goes against the administration. It can be wrong. No one ever says the administration wouldn’t be. But, when it comes to the teaching of the Faith, that has never been wrong. That is what has been preserved.

And that is what Jesus says today in the Gospel. He said, now think about it, He is looking at Peter, “Now Peter you are the rock. I am going to build everything on you.” And then Peter betrayed Him a little bit later. Did he not? So Peter in his own self was weak. He fell. He betrayed Christ. In the Church there have been priests and bishops that have fallen, that have been weak, that have betrayed Christ and us but it doesn’t go against the teaching of the Church. You can be mad at the administration all you want. You can’t be mad against the teaching of what is revealed because in the teaching what is revealed is the truth. And we can’t go anywhere else. To whom else shall we go? This is the reality. So what we need to do is make sure that we are built on truth. That we know what the teaching of the Church is and that is what we profess. And the best way you can do that of course is to know the Catechism.

Now some of you may think that the Catechism is too hard to read. Okay. I will give it to you. They have a new Catechism out you know. It is called the You Catechism. Do you know what the You Catechism is?

It is the Youth Catechism. It is put out by Rome but in a simpler form. So everybody here could read the Youth Catechism so you come to know the teaching of the Church because 50 % of you have not a clue what the Church teaches in reality for most things. You might know the basics. But you don't know the fullness of it. So what you have to do is, you have to stand in truth. And you have to know what the Church teaches and why it teaches that because what the Church teaches is revealed by God and this is what we need to follow. Because to obey the teaching of God, is to obey God. So again, Jesus did not come to find the literary society. He's come to found a Church. And He promised that the gates of hell would not go against the Church. He promised the gates of hell would not win against the Church. And so what we need to do is make sure we are in and based on the rock of St. Peter and built on the truth. You got it? Get it? Going to do it? May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.