

July 9, 2017 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle C  
Father Larry Richards

Good Morning! How are you? We are blessed indeed. This morning, Jesus says to us twice in the gospel, “Come to me and you will find rest” and if we come to Him and we learn from Him for he is meek and humble of heart, we will find rest for ourselves. I think rest is something that a lot of people don’t have you know, because we fill up our time with so much. Even though again, a lot of attention has been given to spiritual sloth, Acacia, and that sin and people are always afraid and people don’t care enough. But, I believe, and again we have lost the Sabbath and the Sabbath rest. When God gave us the commandments, the Ten Commandments, God gave us one whole commandment to rest, like He rested, if you will. We need to rediscover that. We need to rediscover how to rest so that we can do His will all the other times. Even Jesus needs to come and rest. So when Jesus looks at us today and says, “I want you to find rest for yourselves”, He shows us how we gotta do it. How do I find rest?

Well, the first thing you gotta do is you gotta become little. I was talking at the last mass about Fr. Peterson and again, we all know he was my spiritual director for almost 30 years. One of the things he used to tell me almost every time I went to see him was, “Larry, I want you to become little” and I always hated that because I’m not a little person in any way: be it ego, be it body, be it whatever. He kept saying, “You need to become little. You need to become little. You need to become little.” To become little means that I’m gonna need somebody else and nobody likes that. Well, I don’t anyway; maybe you do. The reality is that I need somebody else so I need to become little. When you and I become little, now we can approach Jesus because now we can go to Him because it’s that relationship with Jesus that He calls us to that I can surrender all to Him. See, the problem is, if we’re not little; if we’re learned, not against learned and all those things but if we’re filled up with ourselves, we think that we gotta control the universe. We gotta control our life. We gotta do what we need to do. That gives us great burdens. Aren’t you tired of being Savior of the world? Aren’t you tired of being the Savior of your family? Aren’t you tired of doing everything as if you are God of the universe? God calls us to come to Him and rest.

So, we have to become little and it’s another way of becoming humble, that I need you, Jesus. Until you get to that part where I need you Jesus, we’re in the middle of a DME retreat next door and we have 33 people making it. It isn’t going as well as they normally go. There have been great conversions but there are a few that just are not buying this stuff. So, like adoration last night which is usually the most wonderful thing they do, people were not happy. In looking at them and going with them, they don’t want to become little. They don’t want to become vulnerable to God. How sad it is for all of us when we don’t want to become vulnerable to anybody but we must become vulnerable to Jesus.

So, He says, “Come to me” so humble yourself and then go to Jesus. When we go to Jesus, he says, “Learn from me”. Why? Because I am meek and humble of heart and then you will find rest. So, when I come to Jesus, I have to sit at His feet and I have to learn from Him what it is to be a human being because He’s the perfect human. If Jesus always fulfilled every commandment – isn’t that true? Yes, He

never broke the commandments. He lived the Sabbath. If Jesus learned, "OK, I need to live Sabbath" then we need to live the Sabbath. We need one day of our life where we rest, where we don't fill every moment up, so I tweeted this, this morning. It was as if it was interesting, someone tweeted back and said, "Good advice Father. I'll stop and getting off Twitter, televisions off today. I am gonna read a good book and rest in the Lord all day." Good! That's the point. Do we just go from place to place, do another thing, another thing, another thing. I gotta do this. Then we pull out our cell phone and I gotta do this, call and stay connected, constantly busy, constantly checking the emails, constantly calling people on the phone.

I'm working this with Fr. Michael Kesicki and Fr. Michael did not have a cell phone for years and years and neither did my other classmate, Father Nick Rouch. So, one Christmas, I bought them both track phones because I said, "You gotta get caught up". I've said a thousand times, "I've created Frankenstein's monster" because Fr. Michael Kesicki never ever gets away from looking at his phone. He's always sneaking. You know, in the middle of dinner, constantly, constantly, he has become obsessed with his phone. Right? It ain't just him. He even told me yesterday, "See what a monster you created?" because he was constantly looking.

We become like this. We need to go to Jesus and we need to rest, not just in ourselves but we rest in Him. We find our rest in Him. When we learn from Him and when we find our rest, that's when we have peace. So many of us don't have peace because we haven't learned to rest. We need to learn to rest. This is the day of Sabbath. This is the day of rest. Let's become little. Let's go to Jesus, learn from Him and have peace.

You got it? Get it? Gonna do it? May each of you know His love today and forever. Amen.