

September 24, 2017 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A  
Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning! How are you? Blessed! Blessed indeed! Today we are going to give a short homily because we have Grace Gallagher, who will be our yearly missionary, she is going to come and speak after communion and so I want you to pay close attention to her and I want you to be very generous with the second collection today. So I will be generous with you and give you a short homily. Aren't you excited?

So what we're going to do, is we are going to focus on the second reading and the second reading begins with Paul saying "I am going to magnify Christ, or Jesus, in my body." And he says "whether I live or die it's all for Him." Right? And so what that makes for us, what we have to reflect on do I live and do I magnify Jesus in my body? Now what does that mean? That when people look at us, they no longer see us, but they see Jesus living inside us. What does that mean? That you and I seek to do and bring glory to God, every moment of every day. What does that mean? That you and I desire to bring people to Jesus and not to us. Now again we are all going to do that in our own way.

I've told the story before about Holy Monsignor Lohse, the Vicar General of our Diocese, my classmate, and then me. When he was in the high school, he taught Co-eds, he would sit there and they would come to him and he'd say "come here I wanna tell ya a secret, I think you're special." Isn't that nice? Yes! The exact opposite of me, right? Because when I taught at Prep I sat there and I used to say to the boys, "Gentlemen, if you ever sit there and think I'm going to say 'come here, I wanna tell ya a secret, I think you're special'" It isn't going to happen people of God, it isn't going to happen. My way is a little stronger than most I would imagine. Like when I walk through the halls in the morning... BANG, one of the kids would go into a locker. BANG another kid into a locker. Ten of them would jump me, and I would say "you touch a priest, and you go to hell forever." Right? We do it in our personality. So you don't become somebody different, you be who God created you to be but you do it for His glory. You do it to bring others to Him.

It doesn't mean you're always gentle, sometimes you'll have to kick people in the rear end, but you do it for their good. You do it for the glory of God. You do because they'll see Jesus. And again Jesus was sometimes hard, sometimes He was soft, but He always did everything out of love. May we do the same, may each of you know His love today and forever, Amen.