

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

29th Sunday, Oct 18, 2020

Fr. Larry Richards

Good Morning! And how are you?

You can always tell what I'm going to preach on Sunday if you go to my Twitter or Facebook and whatever scripture verse, I usually quote, that's what you're going to get. And so today the quote was from Twitter was the last line of the Gospel where God says to us, "To repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." And what belongs to God? Everything! So, any questions? It is very simple.

But today, though this last week I have got all kinds of things about the election and Father you got to do this and you got to do this and you got say this and you got to say this. Now any of you who know me know I could care less what you think. I could care less. Just because you tell me to preach on something is not going to make me jump through no hoops. Those of you who send me e-mails and send me what other priest say, and you should say this Father. You can shut up and mind you own business. I deal with One Person. Who is that? God. I got to stand before Almighty God and give Him an account of every word that comes out of my mouth and we know that's going to be problematic on judgement day. But the reality is when I preach, I go to God and say what do You want me to say? And then I say it. And I don't care what anybody thinks as it's been noticed these last 31 years.

But the reality is we must speak the truth but speak it in love. And so, when we deal with this let's keep in mind before we do anything what God says here to us in the Second Reading. He says, "Brothers and sisters," anybody know what the next line is? "loved by God." So, we got to remember that every time we ever speak truth, we must always speak it and love the people we're talking to. So, we can never demonize people that disagree with us because when we do, we're disobeying God. And we're spitting in God's eternal face because we speak the truth without the love of Him, Who is love. So, if you and I never want to spit in God's face every time we talk, we got to make sure that everything I say is said in love and everything that I say to love people more. And to do everything I do is because of love.

Now when it comes to election no matter what I say to any of you, it's not going to change your mind now is it? Nobody has come to church here today or watched this mass to find out if Father talked about politics, correct? Correct? You come to mass worship Almighty God. And you come to mass to know what God wants you to do. So, I'm never going to teach you or to tell you who you got to vote for or who cannot vote for. That's not my job. My job though is to teach you what God wants of us. And because what happens is when me, or bishop, or priest say this is the way you must vote and then we treat you as children and we say that you have no say. God gave you and I free will, did He not? We have enough free will to go to hell for all eternity. Correct? Because God made us free. And if God doesn't tell us what to do or make us do anything, we can't do it all either. Right? So, when it comes to whatever we got to remember the basic premises that everything I do is for love.

Now we are a very pro-life parish, correct? We have been pro-life since I've been here for the last 19 years. We started perpetual adoration because one, the holiness of my people and two, to close and to

damn the abortion clinic. Remember? And I think the abortion clinic closed like within 6 months. But that's all beside the point. We sit there and if you ever want a strong homily on it you just put Father Larry Richards and google Enough, and you're going to hear it. We always protect children because they are the most defenseless. It's the most important thing we do, as a church, as a society, protect them. We must do everything in our power to protect people.

But often what happens is the most pro-life people are the most anti-life in speak right? You ever meet them? You'll go to hell forever. And they are always filled with anger instead of filled with love. No one is ever going to listen to us, if that's the way we are. We must be pro-life in all things including our speech. That means we don't kill people by detraction, we don't kill by our gossip, we don't put people down. Correct? No one believes that though here. It doesn't sound like it. Because you want to be able to put people down if they don't agree with you. But then again you spit in God's Almighty face because He says you must love your enemies. Loving your enemies is not detraction, is not gossip, it's loving them. And what does that mean? You give up your life for them, that's what it means.

And so, what you have to do, and I am not going to be able to tell you one way or the other, but this is what I can tell you. If you all are followers of Jesus, are you followers of Jesus? Yes. That is really good, I'm really glad you came to church today, then. Well, this is the opening prayer that we all said, correct? Almighty ever living God or I said it for you, grant that we may always conform our will to Yours. So, again, what holiness is, is when God's will and our will become one. So, what you and us must do is, everybody has already made up their minds about who they are going to vote for, and that's the sin. Because you made up your mind without asking God. You must, you must, you must pray about it what you will do at this election. And then as our Blessed Mother says do whatever He tells you.

And so, if you go this year without asking God first, you're in sin because you did something your way instead of God's way, and that's in everything you do, not just in voting. If anything, you do in your way instead of God's way that would be sinful. So, what you must do is, you must go to God and you must ask Almighty God, God, since I exist to please You, what do you want me to do and I'll do it because I am Your slave. I am Your servant. I seek to do Your will more than I seek to take my next breath. That's what you must do for everything. And what we do is because of love. When we stand up for babies it's because them. But not only that right? Because Jesus Christ as we talked about in just the last couple of weeks when stand before God on judgement God will judge us on how we have failed to care of the poor also. Right?

The only time Jesus says who goes to heaven and hell is, "Get out of My sight you condemned to the ever-lasting fire prepared for the devil and angels because I was hungry you gave Me no food." So, we got to be life for all of reality because we love all people. We love democrats, we love republicans, we love independents, we love everybody on the earth, is that correct? Then, that's the way we vote, because we love God first. And so, we have got to spend at least an hour of prayer on this. Father I hate you! I know. But, this is a very important decision you're going to make. So, you ask God, Jesus, what do You want me to do? And then do it!

Got it! Get it! Going to do it! You better! May each of you know his love today and forever! Amen!