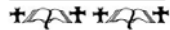


The word
of God
is at work
in you



Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time



Archdiocesan Program
WHY CATHOLIC?
STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

THE BEATITUDES

Biblical Reflection: Mt. 5:3-12

Life in the Holy Spirit fulfills the vocation of man. This life is made up of divine charity and human solidarity. It is graciously offered as salvation. (CCC 1699)

The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God; it is fulfilled in his vocation to divine beatitude. It is essential to a human being freely to direct himself to this fulfillment... (CCC 1700)

The beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching. They take up the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham. The beatitudes fulfill the promises by ordering them no longer merely to the possession of a territory, but to the Kingdom of heaven... (CCC 1716)

The beatitude we are promised confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement – however beneficial it may be -- such as science, technology, and art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love... (CCC 1723)

The Decalogue, the Sermon of the Mount, and the apostolic catechesis describe for us the paths that lead us to the Kingdom of heaven. Sustained by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we tread them, step by step, by everyday acts. By the working of the Word of Christ, we slowly bear fruit in the Church to the glory of God (cf. Mt 13:3-23). (CCC 1724)

The beatitude of eternal life is a gratuitous gift of God. It is supernatural, as is the grace that leads us there. (CCC 1727)

“All bow down before wealth. Wealth is that to which the multitude of men pay an instinctive homage. They measure happiness by wealth; and by wealth they measure respectability... It is a homage resulting from a profound faith... that with wealth he may do all things. Wealth is one idol of the day and notoriety is a second... Notoriety, or the making of a noise in the world – it may be called “newspaper fame” – has come to be considered a great good in itself, and a ground of veneration.” John Henry Cardinal Newman, “Saintliness the Standard of Christian Principle”. (CCC 1723)

Questions for discussion:

- Based on the eight beatitudes (see CCC 1716), which, in your opinion, are the actions or positions presented by the world that are contrary to the Beatitudes given to us by Jesus?
- How could you, as an individual or group, give witness of the beatitudes to the world around you?
- What would you like to say about the Holy Rosary or the Stations of the Cross?
- Have you ever visited a sanctuary? Which one? What did you do during your visit? What was your experience?

Further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 1691-1729

