



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 21, 2014

Pastor's Column

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Gird Your Loins and Light Your Lamps...

This past week I presided at a Funeral of a person who was only 60 years old, and his death was sudden.

The Gospel chosen by the family was: *"Gird your loins and light your lamps...be ready to greet your Master. He will come when you least expect..."*

As much as we attempt to deceive ourselves that we are on this planet, Earth, permanently, the reality is that we are all immigrants, all aliens, and all pilgrims. Earth is not our home. We are on a journey and we are just passing through!

Each of us has been given the gift of life. We did not ask to be born. We did not choose to be born. Choices were made for us and we find ourselves here for just awhile. What we do with this gift, though, is our choice, and our decision.

Whether we live 10 years or 100 years, compared to eternity, life is very short and very precious. The doorway of death is before each of us, and one day we must walk through it.

Our faith calls us to live each day with a sense of honesty and openness to the finiteness of life and the horizon of death before us. It is so easy to get caught up with the "things of earth" that we miss the "things of heaven." We lose our way and forget where we have come from, where we are going, and why we are here.

If today was to be your last day, would you be ready to walk through the doorway of death? Are you at peace with family and friends? Where does forgiveness need to be extended and where does it need to be given?

If you were to meet your Creator today, would you be satisfied in presenting God your life, its activities, agendas, and priorities? Is your life inspired and infused with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Our belief in the Resurrection tells us that we do not need to fear death. Death has been conquered. Death is only the doorway that leads to Eternal Life.

If today was the day...would you be ready, and would you trust God enough to walk through the doorway with faith and confidence?

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival."

F. Mike