



Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 28, 2014

Pastor's Column

*Rev. Michael Ratajczak
760-758-4100 x100
michaelr@stmoside.org*

Let Whoever Is Simple Turn in Here!

This is one of my favorite pieces of Scripture: "Let whoever is simple turn in here!" (Proverbs 9:4)

I think it would make a great message for a sign in front of our Church or any Church, for that matter!

But I wonder how many people would turn in because of it? Would more people "turn away" rather than "turn in" because they would not want to be considered "simple?"

"Simple" has a negative connotation in our world today. When we say that someone is "simple-minded," it describes a person who seems to be unable to fully cope with life; someone who has less than what is necessary to properly navigate through the waters of this life.

Yet, here is the dictionary definition of "simple": ...easy to understand, deal with, use; not elaborate or artificial; not ornate or luxurious; unaffected, unassuming, modest; not complicated.

Reflecting upon that definition, I would be happy to call myself "simple," and I would see "simplicity" as a goal worthy of achievement!

Wisdom calls: "Let whoever is simple turn in here." To the one who lacks understanding, she says, "Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding."

This piece of Scripture tells us that if we are to enter into God's presence and to be fed and nourished by our God, we must let go of artificiality, ornateness, luxuriousness, and to experience God, we must be unaffected, unassuming, modest, and not complicated.

All of this so goes against the world in which we live! We create artificial shells in which we live, and we pride ourselves in trying to have more, be more, and do more than others. We live in an environment of competition rather than in a spirit of cooperation.

We are constantly comparing and judging others against ourselves. Material possessions, educational background, income status, titles and degrees, all seem to be the qualities by which we judge ourselves and others.

And yet, all of this is foolishness! None of it lasts. None of it is important in the eyes of our God.

All that matters is our "simplicity." Our willingness to accept life on its terms and not ours, to see ourselves as pilgrims on a journey of faith, to realize that we have come from God, and that we are making our way back to God.

"We are spiritual beings having a human experience, not human beings having a spiritual experience" (Rev. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin).

Along the way, we need to be fed and nourished, and this is what our God desires to do for us, and will do for us, if we heed the advice of Wisdom, as she speaks to us: "Let whoever is simple turn in here!"

Fr. Mike