

Sunday28-A6 homily by Fr. Gabor

As we come closer to the end of the Church's year, Mother Church reminds us of the end of time when Jesus will come back to hold His Last judgment. So the Church prepares us to be ready always.

Today's parable from Jesus about a wedding banquet requires some explanation, because here Jesus uses very symbolic language. He basically speaks about what happens in the Kingdom of God at the end of time, and Jesus' message is quite straightforward, namely that those who are not interested in the wedding, because their business and their work are more important to them, and those who kill the messengers of the King will miss the most important event of their lives: namely their own union, their wedding with the person who is most important for them, even if they don't realise. We also hear about a man who is not wearing a wedding garment, and because of that he is thrown out of the wedding banquet. For a long time I thought this was a bit harsh from the King, but if you understand the real meaning of this act you will realise what Jesus is referring to.

The King who arranges the wedding is God the Father. The Son is Jesus Christ. There is no mentioning of a bride, because the bride are all those who are invited to a wedding with Christ. So the wedding is a symbol of Communion with Christ, and so it is also a symbol of Mass, because during Mass we enter into a Holy Communion with Christ, just like a married couple on their wedding day. This is why a married couple is an image of Christ's union with the members of the Church. Husbands are a symbol of Christ, and wives are a symbol of us, the Church, the Body of Christ. Those who refuse to come to the wedding symbolise all those who refuse to come to Mass to be in communion with Christ both spiritually and physically through Holy Communion. Sadly I can think of many Roman Catholics, the majority of us, who never come to Church, because of not being interested, or being too busy? I just really wonder, if they will be really interested in communion with Christ when He comes back again. So this is a challenge to you all to reach out to them and bring Christ close to them by showing His love to them.

Now here we have this man who is not wearing the wedding garment and because of that he is thrown out. This action can only be understood from a Jewish cultural point of view. The parable of the prodigal son and one of St. Paul's letters help us to understand what the significance of wearing or not wearing a garment is. When the prodigal son returns home one of the first things that the Father does is that he orders the servants to put fine clothes on His son (Lk 15: 11-32). In Jewish culture this means that the son's dignity as a son of his Father is restored. The putting on of the garment is a sign of forgiveness after repentance and a sign of welcome back into the family. St. Paul also reminds Christians who once have repented their sins and turned to Christ to clothe themselves in Christ (Romans 13:14), ie. to live under the skin of Christ, and to be like Christ in their daily conducts, attitudes, words and

actions. So now it is understandable what it means not to wear a wedding garment; this man symbolises those who have offended Christ and are not willing to live in union with the bridegroom, Christ, and refuse to say sorry and accept Christ's forgiveness and continue to live in Him. Can you marry anyone who has such a way of thinking and attitude? So the problem is not with his lack of proper clothing, but it is a much deeper. However, remember the beginning of the parable: everybody, including this man was invited to live in a joyful, fulfilling and committed communion with Christ, like a marriage. God gives an opportunity to all of us regardless of how sinful we are.

So let's reach out with Christ's inviting love to all around us, because they are all invited to Communion with Christ.