

Homily 2019.08.11 Year C-6 by Fr. Gabor

‘Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.’

I love this saying of Jesus, and how true it is!

This means to me that people put their hearts into what their priorities are or what the main focus of their lives are. So the way you know what their priorities are is by looking at what or who they spend most of their time with when they are at home. Not having time for someone or something is just an excuse, because you definitely can find time for what or who your priorities are, no doubt about that.

For most animals the main priority or focus is to eat, sleep, go for a walk, play or enjoy themselves. Sadly some people spend their lives like that. However we are much more than animals, despite the way the media refers to human beings in the name of science. We have a soul, which we know from the fact that we are able to believe in the existence of realities that are invisible which animals can't do, they may sense something, but that's not faith; and in fact our hearts and souls long for these realities. As St. Augustine says: our hearts are restless until they find rests in God (Confessions).

Therefore your main focus should not be merely on earthly things, but on heavenly things. St. Paul says that these heavenly things are ‘whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, whatever is excellent or praiseworthy ...’ (Philippians 4:8, NIV). I remind myself every day of this important saying of St. Paul and try to do it. It takes some effort to think in a positive way once you are grown up, because we can be creatures of habit. However without any effort to refocus your minds on heavenly things and think and respond to life's challenges in a new, more Christlike way you will get stuck or maybe even turn back to your old spiritual life; to your old ways of thinking and acting.

St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians writes: ‘ Since...you have been raised with Christ... Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3: 1-3, NIV). So yes, we died with Christ, ie. we made a promise through Him and in Him and with Him in the unity of the Holy Spirit to live His life. Therefore our sense of life should be similar to St. Paul sense of life: ‘I no longer live, but Christ lives in

me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' (Galatians 2:20, NIV).

We are created not merely for life on earth, but for a heavenly and resurrected life on earth. So take every moment of this life as a preparation for the life beyond, therefore your main focus should be on heaven; our hearts should be focused on Heaven, while walking here on earth. You should do this all the more, because you do not know the moment when suddenly you have to leave this earthly life. Death does not pick and choose only among the elderly; it can happen to anyone at any age, and just because you don't encounter death on a daily basis it doesn't mean it is a distant possibility. In 2018 there were 2170 deaths in Aberdeen alone. Sometimes I imagine what a huge traffic must be between Heaven and Earth. When I celebrate funerals I prefer to choose the following concluding prayer: 'Lord God, whose days are without end and whose mercies beyond counting, keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown. Let you Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice that we may serve you in union with the whole Church, sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love. And when our earthly journey is ended, lead us rejoicing into your Kingdom, where you live for ever and ever.'