

If you choose...If you trust: Let your “Yes” mean “yes” and your “no” mean “no.” The Word of God today, challenges all to remember what they value, who they trust and how they choose. What is important to you, to me, to us. How deeply do we care? We live in a time where long held values are either questioned, set aside or ignored. A time, in which too it often seems, that a life for the sake of others, a vision to build for what is yet to be and a sense of honor or respect for what others have done and left, is set aside for what is most convenient now, efficient and easy for today, striving all too often for what is without cost, value, sacrifice or change.

Convenience and ease sometimes seems to be the most dominant value of the day. “Yes” or “no” is many times about the way the wind may be blowing at the moment, the answer of least resistance, the choice of what is most convenient. It is not convenient to set aside anger toward another or others; It is often the path of least resistance to render judgement or blame the perceived troubles of the day upon those who appear to be different or coming from a different place.

“Whatever we choose,” we are told, “will be given to us.” *“Whatever we choose, will be given to us.”*

What choice have we made? We are here, in this place, in this House for the Church. Gathered in faith around the Holy Table. We have entered following the Holy Cross, that inconvenient Tree of Life, that awesome mystery set before us—carried still by too many in our world. We here because we

choose to care, because we believe, because we hope. We are here in this sacred place, to honor the broken body of Christ, of which and of whom we are a part. We are here to say “yes, we see

ourselves in Christ;” Here to say “yes” and mean it. Here, not out of convenience, but because of deliberate choice. We are here to say no to

hatred, prejudice, no

to a life without values or beauty; No to being absent, to forgetting who we are and who we are called to be. We are here to say “yes,” we care, believe, hope, and choose to believe, to honor, serve and provide. We are here because we value, faith, worship and the community; Here because we long to nurture those who gather with us now and in the days to come; We are here: because we have made a choice to trust in the love of God, the call of Christ; because the needs of sisters and brothers of every age and kind are “set before us.” We are here to build on the faith handed on to us; Here to say “yes” to the value of the place we gather, “Yes” to welcoming the many here and in every place with a caring heart. “Yes” to bringing our gift to the altar; But “yes,” as well, to first go and do the work of reconciliation, dialogue and respect; and “yes” always to living and real hospitality, beauty,



service and vision. "Yes" always to a caring and loving spirit.

We move forward with open eyes to the needs of the many; with open hearts to serve them truly in caring hospitality; with a clear "yes" and a firm choice to stand as a living witness, that all people may be raised up by the hope of a world made new in a house for the Church filled with the beauty and wonder of God's gift to the human spirit. Here in this

place to imagine *"what God has prepared for those who love him."* Yes, we bring our gift, our sacrifice, to the altar of Christ, because we choose TO HONOR THE PAST, SERVE THE PRESENT AND PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE; "Yes," because we trust in the *"immense wisdom of the Lord,"* and long to imagine in our human heart what God has prepared for those who love him."
"Let your "yes" mean "yes" and your "no" mean "no."

