

Blessed Trinity Catholic Community+ Spirit of Christ Mission
Twenty-ninth Sunday Autumn Ordinary Time,
October 17, 2021~ACA 2
Homily ~ Fr. Ed Hislop

We want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” James and John begin with the expectation of something for themselves: “Do for us whatever we ask of you!” Give us what we want. Save us now. Perhaps they were afraid, disappointed in the vision and ways of Jesus.

Their sights were set on their own needs and success, their own circumstance, ways, and salvation. They had a hard time seeing beyond themselves. “Do for us whatever we ask of you!”

They wanted safety, security, and certainty. One wonders if they were able, at that moment, to imagine anything new or beyond their own needs or desires. Jesus’ way to salvation is not theirs. Be careful what you ask for! “*Whoever wishes to be great must become servant of all.*” Servant enough, to see the life of others; servant enough, to see light in the darkness of the times; servant enough to see beyond weakness; faithful enough, to have sincere respect for the gifts of God and the needs of many; trusting enough to offer a sacrifice acceptable to God, with a new mercy and a flowing compassion.

Jesus words challenge us all to his vision and his promise: DARE TO BE A SERVANT OF ALL: See beyond

yourself and your own and let yourself be touched by the affliction of others and moved by the strength and caring of so many.

“Look into the signs of the times by the light of faith, constantly be devoted to the service of the Gospel... attentive to the needs of all ... share their pain and grief, their joy and hope,” and bring them the good news of salvation; and go forward—go forward—with them ...”

Eucharistic Prayer, Jesus-Way to the Father, adapted

As challenging as it is, strive to be a servant of all and let the word of Jesus be engraved in our heart and spirit: “We are here, not to be served, but to serve,” in memory of Christ. Even now in these days, there is still room for a gift of hope and a promise of mercy; room for a renewed spirit, a caring generosity, and the loving heart of a true servant. Room for a sacrifice of praise offered for our own good and the good of all God’s Church. Today, Jesus’ question to us, becomes ours to him: “What do you wish me to do for you?”

“LORD, LET YOUR MERCY BE ON US, AS WE PLACE OUR TRUST IN YOU.” *Responsorial Psalm 33*

“Come, Let us Worship.”

