

3rd Sunday of Lent Year B March 8, 2015

Readings: Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, I Corinthians 1: 22-25, John 2: 13-25

Keeping God's Commandment As The Signs And Symbols Of Our Faith

Today the 3rd Sunday of Lent shows that we already half way in this year's season of Lent. I hope is not awkward or awful to ask ourselves if we have started Lent or we do we hope still to start. Am I doing anything extra with regard to the three cardinal works of this season, namely; prayer, fasting and almsgiving? These works are meant to deepen and strengthen our relationship with God and one another. To help us towards this, the readings of today invite us to reflect different areas that will help us in this season.

In first reading, we read the giving of Ten Commandments- Decalogue by God to the people of Israel at Sinai through Moses, after freeing them from the torments and tortures of the land of Egypt. These commandments Christ took and summarized into two: Love of God and Love of Neighbor. His mission was not to abolish the law and prophets but to fulfill them (Matthew 5:17). This is also the summary of the commandments if we summarize it by ourselves. We see that the first three concern our relationship with God, while the remaining seven concern our relationship with one another.

These commandments will help us to evaluate both our relationship with God and one another. The second reading and the Gospel talk about sign. Jesus points out that the sign he will give is his passion, death and resurrection. This great sign of love St. Paul describes in the second reading surpasses the physical signs the Jews demand, and the wisdom the Greeks look for. The crucified Christ is enough sign for us to know the infinite and boundless love of God. Jesus said it that "no greater love than this for a man to lay down his life for friends" (John 13:15). We respond to this love by the way we try and strive to keep his commandments, for Jesus said: "if you love me, keep me commandment" (John 14: 15).

In a practical way, we can measure the love our kids or husbands or wives have for us by the way they keep to good things we tell them. Thus, the measure of our love for God is the measure of the effort we make to keep his words in our lives. This is also the sign and symbols of our faith, for our faith shows itself in good works. (James 2:17). Equally, striking in the gospel is the cleansing of the temple by Jesus because it is being defiled. It is also an invitation for us to reflect on our comportment and conduct in the house of God. Let us continue to ask God to help to grow towards him especially making this season of lent, a favorable time fruitful in our lives. Amen.