

What Do We Do While We Wait?

Is. 63: 16b-17, 64: 1, 3-8; 1Cor. 1: 3-9; Mk 13: 33-37

This Sunday, the Church enters into the season of Advent, the time of expectant waiting for Jesus to appear; not for the first time as the secular world would have us focus on, but rather for the second time to 'judge the living and the dead'. In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples: 'Beware, keep alert: for you do not know when the time will come...Keep awake.'

For weeks, Jesus has been telling His disciples that He will be coming back to the world at an unknown time in the future. Three weeks ago, Jesus told the parable of the five prudent bridesmaids who prepared for His arrival by filling their lamps with oil and trimming the wicks. When He arrived unexpectedly, the wise bridesmaids were prepared and were allowed into the wedding banquet while the foolish bridesmaids were shut out. (Matt. 25: 1-13)

Two weeks ago, Jesus related the parable of the talents wherein the master (Jesus) went away on a long journey leaving his property to be managed by his slaves. Two of his slaves doubled his treasure while the third was afraid and did nothing. When the master returned after a long time, he was pleased to see the achievements of the first two slaves but was angry at the third slave for being lazy and threw him off his property. (Matt. 25: 14-30)

These parables tell us several things. Firstly, Jesus will come again. Secondly, He will come at an unexpected time so we have to remain ready. Thirdly, He will settle accounts with each of us. So we must stay awake, keep alert, and be ready for Jesus' coming.

But Jesus tells us to do more than that. He tells us that, as we wait, we are to use our time wisely. Last week, Jesus told us that we must take care of our brothers and sisters, especially the least among us. He made it clear that He would settle accounts with us based on our performance in this regard. (Matt. 25: 31-46)

One of the ways in which we can carry out Jesus' commandment is by supporting a charity called: Chalice. Chalice is the largest Catholic sponsorship organization in Canada. Their mission is to bring Christ to the poor and the poor to Christ. Fr. Patrick Cosgrove, in Bedford, Nova Scotia, founded the organization in 1996.

Chalice is active in 15 developing countries sponsoring over 50,000 people; mostly children. Chalice helps provide the necessities of life for the children so they can attend school and so they can improve their lives and the lives of their families. People at Chalice are faith-driven and compassionate, truly answering the call to love the least among us.

You can sponsor a child for a little over a dollar a day. This small amount will change the lives of the children and their struggling families. Often, we read or hear about the extreme poverty that exists in the world and we despair that we can't do anything to alleviate the problem. This is a chance to do something that will have a real impact. For less than the cost of a cup of coffee a day, you can help a child and his/her family to a better life.

During this time of pandemic, the needs of these children have become even more acute. If you would like to sponsor a child, please contact Andrea Soscia through the Parish Office. Andrea would be pleased to give you more information.

What better way to make fruitful use of our time and to remain alert as we wait for the coming of our Master?