

## Called to a life of Grace 5/12/19

**ACTS 13:14, 43-52, REV 7:9, 14B-17, JN 10:27-30**

Greetings to all mothers on Mothers day, and greetings also to all those called to the vocation of holy orders as we celebrate vocation Sunday. Both of these roles (motherhood or priesthood) require the grace of God, if we are to please the Lord. St. Paul reminds us in our first reading *to remain faithful in the grace of God*. The Good Shepherd, our Lord Jesus Christ, died and rose again to become our source of grace, and to lead us to everlasting life. Let us call on our dear shepherd always to bestow a fresh outpouring of grace on our lives to carry out his work on earth.

Paul and Barnabas embarked on a missionary journey to Antioch, they urged the Christians to **remain faithful to the grace of God**. Faithful to the grace of God...What did that mean to them? What does it mean to us today? To the early Christian community, remaining faithful to the grace of God implied relying on the power of him who raised Jesus from the dead. Relying on God to see them through the persecution, rejection, opposition. They were to seek the grace of God at the outset of their work, during their work and after every accomplishment. We need grace in our lives, yes we do! Let us not hesitate to ask God for the grace we need in every state of life. A child was asked at a CCD class to explain what grace was. His response was, 'it is the prayer you say before a good meal.' Amazing response! Grace is God's unmerited gift/favor with which he assists us in our journey on earth. For Catholics the sacraments are the channels of grace. Remain faithful to the grace of God means that we should be committed to the promise we made to God when we were baptized, the promise to remain God's children and to obey his word.

Our second reading sets before our eyes, the vision of the glory of heaven, which should motivate us to remain faithful to his grace to the end. We are told that the lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them to springs of life giving water.

In the gospel reading, Jesus promises eternal life to his sheep. The sheep hears the voice of their shepherd and they follow him. We are the flock of God and Jesus is our shepherd

Let us assess ourselves in the light of God's word whether we are remaining faithful to God's grace? The grace of baptism, the grace of the Eucharist, the grace of marriage, the grace of ordination. What about the aspect of belonging to Jesus' sheepfold, being part of his flock: can we hear his voice echoing through the changing scenes of our lives? The promise given to all who follow him to the end is everlasting life. We don't want to lose that, do we?

Today's message is this: Ask for grace, live with grace, remain in grace. Be a witness to the grace of God in your life, your marriage, your work, your ministry.

Remain faithful to God's grace!

Fr. Francis Odoom