**32nd Sunday Ordinary Time, Cycle©, 2019**

**Do you truly believe in the Resurrection? Seriously, do you? Of course, we do, right, that’s why we all are here to celebrate the Eucharist!** “**The Resurrection**”, as we all know, is absolutely central to who we are as believers, central to our faith journeys- a deep reality that we spend a lifetime trying to understand, wrap up our minds around, accept and embrace. If we do believe in the **Resurrection, sincerely, deeply and completely, and we desperately want to** say yes, then we have to pause…look at our life…and the choices we make in our life and our apparent priorities we make……

We all have seen men and women who are rapidly approaching death say all kinds of things about “**finally understanding what is truly important in life**”. They talk about how they have completely different priorities now and how they wish they would have done a lot of things differently in the past. And they mean it truly, not because they are now somehow fearing God. It's **because our lives seem to** get more **illuminated, more in focus, the closer to death we are. A**nd for most people this experience is truly **freeing, lib**erating from things that really don’t matter much as we face our greatest challenge. It may very simply **be grace, an outpouring of God’s very life**--- God's way of helping us to look honestly at the true meaning of our lives.

**Today, we just heard two readings** that address **Resurrecti**on in a pretty explicit way. In **the Gospel from Luke** we see the **Sadducees posing a hypothetical question to Je**sus. (We must understand) the idea of an afterlife at the time of Jesus was something that was being debated among scholars. Many **Phar**isees supported the idea, but the Sadducees did not. And the **wild hypothetical question to Jesus about a woman who marries and buries seven husbands** who are brothers- might be either to test him or may be to mock the very notion of an afterlife convincing that doesn’t make any sense.

**Jesus, by answering their question and** correcting them, said that the **Resurrection he speaks of is unlike anything they can imagine.** It's not simply this life going on indefinitely. There are **no earthly concerns after w**e die. There are no rules that apply. Rather **it is a fullness of life beyond our wildest imagination**—a life with God that has no end. And there really is no point trying to “**figure it ou**t” in human terms. **Our destiny which is union with God is everlasting life.** Teaching about resurrection and life, Jesus says in **today's Go**spel, “The children of this age marry but those in heaven not. They become like the angels and are no longer liable to death”. Our life here on earth is limited and frustrated by things in our life, **but Jesus teaches us that resurrection is radically different,** our life in heaven is a transformed life, a fulfillment. No more wanting, yearning, seeking or climbing. **We will be with God and at peac**e.

That’s important for us to hear. The only way, the best way we can keep our eyes on the “**pr**ize”, **the only way we can continually sacrifice things in this life to keep ourselves on the right path, the only way we can move beyond ourselves- is- if what we are seeking, hoping for, and desiring is the best thing possible, something of value that exceeds everything else, a destination that completely trumps every single thing in this life**—all things we can’t take with us”. If we consider Heaven to be anything less—it likely won’t’ be an attractive enough home for us to be drawn toward each and every day, through each and every decision. **If “Heaven just seems to be sort of “ok”, then our commitment to God might just be “ok”, too**.

**And in the Second Reading today from the Second Book of Maccabees** we heard the dramatic and violent story about 7 brothers and their mother being tortured and put to death--- a death they could have avoided had they **agreed to eat po**rk. Because they saw this as an unbendable rule--- a law of God—they were unwilling to do something **“wrong**” to save their lives. And the **strongest brick in their unyielding co**mmitment to God may have been their **steadfast belief that death would not be the end, th**at something much better awaited them. The fourth brother, as he neared death, said, “***It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by him***”. It is not the question of eating or not eating pork here. They were convinced of their obedience and steadfast faithfulness to God than protecting their own lives. Some of that desire almost came from their belief in some sort of resurrection, life beyond this world, some sort of beautiful, meaningful, joyful existence beyond the grave. Their God was not going to abandon them in death. Rather, **he would raise them up to some sort of incredible life with him. And that made all the difference.**

As we go through life we would like to know just whom we are going to spend eternity with and what it's going to be like. The truth is that none of us knows. May be the best we can do at this time is – **willing to die small deaths each and every day in order to do the right thing, the loving th**ing and to love those around us now, **and let God take care of our ultimate destiny- his promise for our eternal home awaiting for us.**