

Theme: "Where your treasure is

August 8, 2010

Wisdom 18: 6-9

there will your heart be." **Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Luke 12: 32- 48

Peace be with you all!

There are always little projects I want to do to improve our church such as the flowers along the sidewalks, the playground for children, the parking lights, the sound system, the porches in the portable buildings and lighting system, etc. One of these projects was providing the symbols of the Processional Cross, the paschal Candle and the lectern in every room in the Portable Buildings. And so I asked someone to make me some metal bases for the Processional Crosses we bought cheaper in Mexico. When he asked me how I wanted these things done and when I needed them, I said: I want them "**beautiful, durable and cheap.**" He laughed. And I want them made "**soon.**" In Spanish all this sounds even funnier. "**I want them 'bueno, bonito, barato y bronto (meaning pronto).**" Since then, this has become my style of approach for all other projects here in the church.

Today we live in a world and culture where 'time' is becoming a valuable treasure and we are getting less of it every day. Every precious minute counts. We want everything fast and easy. Look at our athletes, such as runners, swimmers, drivers, bikers, etc., They are constantly beating their old records as they cover more distances in a shorter period of time. Even cars, planes and rockets and super colliders try to break sound barriers and defy the laws of gravity as they try to prove that time is merely in the mind. As we become more efficient at what we do, we find ourselves doing more things and covering more distances in shorter hours. And so we end up taking upon ourselves more things to do and more activities to attend than we could possibly handle. And at the end of the day, we wonder where did time go and why are we exhausted? Our freeways are filled with drivers trying to pass one another and beating the red lights just to save an extra minute or two as they rush to get to where ever they are going **just in time.** In this vicious cycle of time management, we believe that we can do more things faster and finish them earlier. And so we end up trying to do more things just to "**fill our time.**" As a result of this we all live lives in the fast lane. Everyone is constantly in a hurry. Gets a glimpse of people walking hurriedly along the streets in **New York** and you can really feel the pressure of time.

The negative side to all this is that we have developed the fear of being **idle** doing nothing even for a few minutes. We dread the thought of having to wait. We feel the urge to keep on going and doing and moving we can't stand the thought of keeping STILL EVEN FOR A MINUTE. I do not know about you, but whenever I am pressed for **time** I feel like I am sucked into a tiny space where I am unable to wiggle around because there is not room for me to relax and just be still. Worse than this, I sometimes feel constrained, imprisoned and enslaved by time. The late singer **Jim Croce** probably knew about this when he wrote and sang the song "**Time in a Bottle.**" He wrote: "*If I could save time in a bottle, the first thing that I'd like to do is to save every day till eternity passes away just to spend them with you-----but there never seems to be enough time to do the things you want to do once you find them.*"

And I certainly feel the same way. There seems to be so many things I want to do, yet so little time to do it. I feel constantly backed up in all my works, sometimes I wonder if I'll ever have enough time to do them all. And the most uncomfortable greeting I often hear is----RELAX, Father! This is often the last thing I want to do.

And yet **on the other hand** we often show our inner desire for liberation from 'time' when we struggle to overcome its demands. We understand that there are three dimensions of time, namely: *the past, the present and the future.* However, only the past and the future are clearly defined. The present almost does not exist as a temporal dimension. It is not clear when it begins and when it ends. It (the present) merely separates the past from the future. Both the past and the future are always just a moment away from the present.

In terms of temporal dimensions, we are more future-oriented than past-oriented. We want to invest our time and money on the future. The future holds so much promise for us. We even sacrifice so much of the present in order to save up for a secure future. Our passion for the **Life-Insurance issues, social security, medical-dental insurance is** almost a powerful sub-culture in our society today. Our efforts in the present are greatly focused on our future so much that we hardly enjoy the **present** anymore for the sake of the future. That is how fast time flies before our eyes. Every moment is almost exclusively lived and spent for the future.

The readings today clearly emphasize the spiritual value and redemptive grace **in living for the moment** and the **present** that is **continuous and constant. Fidelity** to service, as a virtue, calls for this constant and faithful compliance of the works entrusted upon us. While the whole of creation struggles with time and how it flies from the future to the past, there is only one who lives in the constant present - **God.** For God there is no past or future. Everything is always in the present. **Eternity** is nothing more than the **eternal present** and the **eternal freshness of life BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF PAST AND FUTURE.** What matters to God is the now and the here present. He is the God of the Present who forgets the sins of the past and ensures the peace of the future. Only the present can heal the wounds of the past and guarantee the security of our future in God. Where your treasure is there will your heart be. And God is the greatest treasure of all who has time in His hands for us always. If you want to invest in your future, better invest in your relationship with God **HERE and NOW.**