

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015 - HOLY HOUR

“Be child-like”

Greeting

Dear friends, when we were children we were innocent, curious and full of the desire to learn, we loved because we trusted and others loved us too. Now we are filled with the desire for convenience, pleasure, possessions and a different definition of love. Are we lost? It seems so. But Jesus says, “become as little children, and you will enter the kingdom of God”. God’s angels protect and guide those who are as little children. Let us then become child-like in the presence of God.

Hymn – Just like a child.

Opening Prayer - Psalm 79: 9, 13 79: 9, 13 *(the congregation may repeat each line after the leader)*

- * Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name’s sake.
- * Then we your people, the flock of your pasture,
will give thanks to you forever;
from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

A moment of prayerful silence - so that the Word of God may enter into us and enlighten us.

Scripture Reading : Gospel of Matthew 18:1-5, 10 *(to be read from the Bible only)*

The disciples approached Jesus and said,
“Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?”
He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said,
“Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,
you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.
Whoever humbles himself like this child
is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.
And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones,

for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

Reflection (*pause for silence after each aspect*)

- The disciples want to know how to get ahead of others in the kingdom of heaven. This question portrays a misunderstanding of the kingdom of Christ. A more appropriate question would be: How can I be a better person in **God’s kingdom**?
- To become like little children does not mean becoming ‘childish’ and temperamental. It means becoming ‘child-like’. It means to consider oneself small and insignificant.
- Why does Jesus hold up little children as models for the rest of us? It is because of their simplicity and their tendency to trust, especially those who love them. **Children are born free of prejudice and they are totally open to learning.** Jesus warns us not to despise those who are ‘childlike’.
- Scripture is full of examples of how the angels serve as messengers and protectors. **We, Catholics, are in the habit of praying to our guardian angels.** The Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 336 says: From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their (angels) watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." (St. Basil) .

Spiritual life requires a child-like trust. Unless we turn away from our worldliness and become as little children we will not be ready to live our lives in accordance with what God wants for us. We may not understand why God requires certain things of us but if there is a basic trust and openness to him, we will find it easier to follow his commands.

Personal reflection (*pause after each*)

1. Why do I say ‘no’ to what God asks of me? Is it from a lack of trust?
2. Do I struggle with self-importance and the necessity of always being right? Or am I open to learning?
3. How can I become a better person in my family, my workplace, the church?

Consider - What you can do towards personal transformation

- Tell the Lord you trust him. Say ‘yes’ to something difficult as long as it is morally good.

- Be continually open to learning. Do away with pride and prejudice.
- Thank the Lord for his guidance and protection through his angels. Make it a daily habit.

Silence

Hymn – Show me your ways O Lord/Open our eyes Lord

Intercessory Prayer

Leader: God of grace and majesty, we trust in your love as we pray for the many needs of your church and the world. Our response is: Hear us O Lord, hear our prayer O Lord.

1. That the church may be sanctified through the work of the Spirit within us...*(pause)*....we pray to the Lord. (R)
2. That we may become childlike and trusting in the Lord's infinite goodness..... *(pause)*.... we pray to the Lord. (R)
3. That the faith of all believers may be renewed..*(pause)*.... we pray to the Lord. (R)
4. That we may learn to live without prejudice and without despising our fellow-beings..*(pause)*we pray to the Lord. (R)
5. That we may proclaim the good news to our children, by our words and our deeds..*(pause)*....we pray to the Lord. (R)
6. That all of us may accept whatever comes from God with serenity and simplicity....*(pause)*....we pray to the Lord. (R)

Leader: Heavenly Father, you show your almighty power in your mercy and forgiveness. Continue to fill us with your gifts of love, and help us in overcoming our pride and prejudices, so that we may come to share in the joys of your kingdom. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction follows.

Benediction hymn – Let us bow in adoration

Concluding hymn – Happy the heart / I've got the love of Jesus

--- *Maureen Pereira*
Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee