

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 Homily

From the ordinary, God makes things extraordinary. From that which is incomplete, comes the complete. We are born not finished, incomplete, imperfect. In Christ, we are completed. The journey of faith is being led by Christ as He completes us to be children of God.

What often gets in the way is our sin. I'm not talking about the particular doing of this or that, but the original sin of thinking that we are no longer in need of what Christ is doing. Each of us needs to step from that spot and come into the real relationship where Christ is Lord and we are the ones following Him. That is often our daily struggle. We will be made complete even as Christ is complete.

Think about it for a moment. Christ came to complete salvation. When He came, He was without sin, but what needed to happen was not yet, so therefore, incomplete. We need to work out of our heads that incomplete is a sin. A child cannot expect to do surgery, but may well end up being a surgeon. We too will be taken down the narrow path to become what Christ is making of us. There are going to be some surprises.

David was a shepherd boy. Not only that, he was the youngest amongst his brothers. When one considers the society then, the chances of being anything were remote, but God elevated him to be king. Consider Mary as the church celebrates the annunciation. She who was from an obscure village, not even wed but only betrothed, heard the offer of the ages and the Holy Spirit put within her womb Messiah. She of no rank – nor even thinking of such possibilities – was chosen to be the mother of our Lord. Amazing? Yes!

Here is the point: you and I do not know what the Lord is going to make of us, but we do know that the Lord will complete us. The wicked one has confused the faithful long enough. Yes, this is very theological, but it is very important that we understand this. It is also very simple.

Too often, the church has been promoting either getting out of the recompense for particular sins, or else some kind of I-am-better-than-you comparison between the saints in the making. This is a game of pride is what brought down the devil. It is at the heart of sin. You and I whom we and the Lord will make of what He will make of us. But, that does not mean that we just sit around and do nothing. On the contrary, we each should seek to live life as fully as we can. Each day has enough to deal with.

Sometimes we may feel like David. Too young, just a shepherd, limiting to what we think when it comes to what God will do. Sometimes, like Mary, we are faced with what seems impossible. I believe we forget that all of those who have come before us have struggled also. It is often through the struggle that the real formation comes. We may read a few chapters of a story and forget that we are reading about a lifetime. The life before us has two options.

We can go the way of the world, live the few short years we have, hoping for the best, or, we can – and I believe you are – seek to live into the life which is offered us. I too get wrapped up in things and forget that this life we are offered begins here with the hope, the promise that because Christ was raised from the dead, we too have a new life.

The world appoints leaders for a time, but the true King of all time has come and we are in His invitation to join. Yes, there will be the continued Lent journey of this life, but we are told of the hope which is founded upon the love of Christ which has been lavished upon us. It does not promise that we will always feel the way we want, or that things will turn out as we imagine. True love does not work that way. True love is founded upon an unbreakable bond of one for the

other such that no matter the circumstances, those in the love relationship persevere. It is in the living that love is love.

We know that love does not measure by this world's standards. It believes all things, hopes all things endures all things. Love never fails. Our Lord, our Savior, the One who loves us more than we can begin to comprehend has endured all of the pain of this world for the sake of those who will enter into the love relationship. Who knows but that this is the whole reason for this thing we call existence.

You have so many promises. Live in the faith that you have been given. Live with the hope which is yours because Christ is risen. Know that in Him, you are being made new. Abide in love. Abide in Jesus as He is abiding in you. Faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.