

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 07/05/20

“Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass.”

Old Testament references to Zion and Jerusalem have been traditionally understood as referring to the Catholic Church – the new Jerusalem.

So we are being exhorted today to rejoice and shout for joy.

However, with everything that is happening in the world – pandemic, violent protests and scandal everywhere – it may seem pretty difficult at times to heed this call.

And then when one considers the weakness and even perhaps the malice that has overtaken so many people in the Church, even some of our leaders, it becomes harder still to rejoice and shout for joy.

But if we take our eyes off Jesus it will become virtually impossible.

“See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass.”

It takes a lot of humility to look beyond the flaws in people and in institutions to see the beauty.

It becomes especially challenging if that institution is the Holy Catholic Church.

In the gospel today Jesus praised his Father for having revealed the mystery of his plan to the little ones.

The Catholic Church is a major part of Jesus' plan of salvation.

But it's easy to question this in the midst of so much scandal and confusion.

For this reason we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

One of the best ways to do so is to cultivate a deeper relationship with our Lady.

Mary is the personification of the Church. She is the spotless, always faithful, bride of Christ.

Every Catholic Church must have a tabernacle in which our Lord reposes for our adoration.

Mary was the first tabernacle when she carried our Lord in her womb.

So like little children let's stay close to the humble Virgin of Nazareth and she will help us keep our eyes fixed on her Son who said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest...for I am meek and humble of heart.

“The Church on earth, the Second Vatican Council proclaimed, ‘is endowed already with a sanctity that is real though imperfect.’ The Catechism of the Catholic Church, after quoting that sentence, continues, ‘In her members perfect holiness is something yet to be acquired’.”

That’s why the Church has always given us two models to consider when we look at her.

These are the Marian and Petrine Models.

Mary is the personification of the Church. She is the spotless, always faithful bride of Christ.

Peter and the other apostles, on the other hand, represent the hierarchical institution, founded by Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, yet confided into the care of fallen men.

It is difficult to keep these two models in their proper perspective.

An overemphasis of one over the other is not very healthy.

We need to recognize Christ’s Church in both models, Marian and Petrine. Toward the Marian Church the appropriate attitude is a childlike trust and devotion. Toward the Petrine Church, a mature adult’s confidence.