

WHY SERVE THE LORD?/OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY; THURSDAY, 7TH OCTOBER 2021, WEEK 27, YEAR I.

MALACHI 3:13-20; PSALM 1; LUKE 11:5-13

I woke yesterday afternoon and I saw a video posted by a priest on YouTube, telling people to be kind in their words to one another because no one knows what the other person is going through. Sometimes we say careless things to people and we have no idea how much we are hurting them, yet we don't want people to hurt our own feelings by their words.

Interestingly, people say hurtful words not just to others but even to God. In the First Reading of today, we learn that God cares about the words we address to Him.

He told His people "You say harsh things about me..." What did they say? The people of God said it is useless to serve the Lord. They were offended by the prosperity of the wicked. They observed that God was also kind to those who did not serve Him. They saw that the righteous also suffered, sometimes more than the wicked and they felt that the cost of serving God wasn't worth the reward.

God responded by telling them that one day they would see that it pays to serve the Lord, that one day they would see the reward of righteousness, that one day they would see the distinction between those who diligently served the Lord and those who denied Him or were unfaithful to Him.

Dear friends, we who are enlightened by the Holy Spirit, an enlightenment which Jesus tells us in the Gospel that the Father gives to those who ask, know that nothing is better, sweeter and more rewarding than serving the Lord. The reward is here and now but it will be full and gracious in the world to come.

However, having said that, we also know that we serve the Lord not just because we are hoping for some reward but because of who He is. He is our Loving Creator and Great Redeemer. We serve Him for who He is. For us, to live is to serve Him. We cannot but serve Him.

Today, there are so many people who are angry with God and so many people who think it is foolish to serve Him. We all have them around us as friends, relatives, intimate family members and colleagues. They need our prayers because it is horrible for any soul to die in a state of unbelief, unfaithfulness or hatred towards God.

One way we can help them is by praying the Rosary for them. This powerful weapon has been known to obtain graces of conversion for heretics, atheists and hardened sinners. Providentially, today is the memorial of our Lady of the Holy Rosary, when we recall our Lady's intercession, not just in the battle of Lepanto in 1571 but also in countless other ways.

May our Mother Mary, through our collective prayers, obtain for sinners, heretics, atheists, lapsed Christians and those having serious spiritual crises, the grace of spiritual revelation and enlightenment, true conversion, full restoration to the fold and eternal salvation.