

Homily of 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B (09-30-18)

Last Sunday, we read that the apostles argued among themselves about who was the greatest. We reflected last Sunday that squabble for superiority and supremacy is ungodly. Jesus teaches us to be servant of all and take care of the weak. Our reflection this Sunday is a continuation of last Sunday's reflection.

In the first reading, Joshua wanted Moses to stop Eldad and Medad from prophesying because they were not in the camp when the Lord bestowed the spirit on the seventy elders. Moses replied that he wished the Lord might bestow his spirit on everyone.

In the Gospel, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him..."

If we had only one kind of tree in the whole world, how uninteresting would it have been?

If we had only one kind of flower in the whole world, how uninteresting would it have been?

If we had only one kind of weather in the whole world, how uninteresting would it have been?

If we had only one kind of animal in the whole world, how uninteresting would it have been?

If we had only one kind of food in the whole world, how uninteresting would it have been?

If we had only one kind of spot in the whole world, how uninteresting would it have been?

If everything is of one kind in the whole world, how boring the world would have been?

There is beauty in variety, which is why St. Paul writes, "If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I do not need you.' Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy" (1 Corinthians 12:17-26).

If there is only one kind of human being in the whole world, how uninteresting would it have been? Therefore, the difference in race, color, language, geographical location, resources, talent, ability and so on is according to God's beautiful design of creation, and not to the disadvantage of any of his creature.

Unfortunately, almost everywhere, there are 'Joshuas' and 'Johns' who reject others or deny others their rights and privileges on the bases of differences in race, color, status and so on. This attitude is ungodly.

The second reading and the Gospel condemn those who take advantage of others to advance themselves or enrich themselves. For all of us, Jesus encourages us to have the discipline to do away with those things we love to do that give us temporary pleasure and satisfaction but will on the long run ruin our life or our soul.

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