

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 28th SUNDAY YEAR A 2020

THE WEDDING BANQUET.

Coming from an African background of real celebration of any event, I am tempted to take on the theme of wedding feast as our reflection this Sunday.

It gave me almost a cultural shock seeing how systematic and well planned the weddings in this part of the world take place. They are well arranged logistically to accommodate the invited guest and to make sure they are comfortable with food and drink. On the contrary, you do the same set up in Africa and you will be frustrated and disappointed. ***With or without invitation people will come*** from all works of life. It is a ***Communal function with*** many gate crashers. The good thing is they know it is their responsibility to help out. ***They won't come empty-handed, they know they will bring something, firewood, water, food, and presents thus kicking off the celebration.*** They support the function for the new family.

Today, in our readings, especially the first reading and the Gospel we hear about the BANQUET. In the first reading, the image of banquet is used to describe the blessings God has in store for not only the Israelites but for ALL NATIONS.

On this mountain for all people Yahweh will prepare a banquet with rich food, and fine wines. He will take away the SHAME, AND WIPE AWAY TEARS, and GIVE HOPE to His people. The invitation is there it is now our turn to accept that invitation. He doesn't force an invitation on any individual. The invitation is given but the ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, DENIAL, OR REFUSAL depends on the individual.

St. Paul's letter, on the other hand, encourages us to take all the happenings in life as keys and channels to get that invitation to the banquet. ***POVERTY, RICHES, HUNGER , all three, should not be obstacles to attain that kingdom.***

The gospel takes us to that great invitation of the king with some refusing and giving excuses to the invitation. God is constantly and continually calling each and every one of us to this Royal wedding for a deeper and better life. He gives a gentle and real call to us in our inner self. Many times we have too many other excuses within ourselves, some valid others far fetched.

-I should have visited that sick person BUT at the moment I have that favorite TV program

*-I should have said the Rosary and Evening prayers **BUT I am too tired now.***

*-I should have made an effort to go for mass **BUT SOMETHING HAS COME UP.***

*-I should have been more charitable **BUT THAT LADY IS TOO DIFFICULT TO HANDLE.***

*-I know dishonesty is wrong **BUT EVERYBODY IS DOING IT.***

*-I know of late I drink too much **BUT I AM UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE these days.***

*-I know I should spend more time with my family **But I need that extra overtime money.***

Each and every one of us has a different excuse for not attending this invitation and of not doing this or that in our human way of life. The same excuses those invited were giving.

He is inviting us to :

*- **A Banquet of truth, and goodness***

*- **A Banquet of Holiness and Grace.***

*- **A Banquet of Justice, Love, and Peace.***

What is our response to these invitations?

Are we wearing the right garments for the invitation?

Having heard His invitation then,

*-**We must give up our old clothes, our habits.***

*-**We must put on the new clothes of Christian discipleship.***

*-**We must wear the garment of TRUTH, JUSTICE, MERCY and HUMILITY.***

It is not only saying prayers **BUT OPENING OUR HEARTS and lives to God.**

*-How we participates in **works of mercy.***

*-How we deal with **each other.***

*-How we participate **in mass and good works***

These are the KEYS that UNLOCK THE DOORS AND GIVE ENTRY TO THE BANQUET GOD HAS PREPARED FOR US.

ARE YOU PROPERLY DRESSED FOR THE BANQUET?