

**FR.TK.HOMILY 13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY YEAR A.2023.**

**HOSPITALITY AND THE CROSS:**

The Lord is giving us two important teachings in the gospel, **carrying the daily cross and hospitality.**

Both elements are very vital in our Christian way of life and demand **sacrifice, patience, and dedication.** They call us to move from our very **comfort zones** in our life to **unfamiliar environment of sharing and availability to others.** This is the **call of following Christ.** *It demands we have attitude, character and purpose of Christ* thus being **available, compassionate, caring and loving** as he did to us by dying on that **wooden tree for our salvation.** we are called to be **other Christ's to our brethren.**

Jesus teaching about the cross is very **dramatic, disturbing, distressing and stressing indeed,** earlier on he had said he came not to establish **peace but sword and division in the family (Mt.10:34-36)** now is talking of **hating the members of the same (37)** especially the very close ones, this was due to what was happening at the time whenever you became a follower of Christ many would hate you because of the challenge you would present to them. He is telling us today **we must choose between him and the family, the society and the materialism.** He is calling us to **detach ourselves from anything which would be an obstacle in attaching ourselves to him.** is there anything or anyone who is in that category in your life? The choice is up to you choose wisely. whoever would like to be my follower **must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. (no Eastern by-pass).**

We are called to paddle through the **challenges, hostilities** so much around us in the society and the world which are so much against the gospel of Christ. The culture of **trivializing the gospel, seriousness in marriage and other vocations, dignity of sexuality, assault and dignity of human life.** we are faced with all these as Christian's and as

Catholics. Do we stand with Christ or with the world? **It is a choice we must make today, tomorrow might be too late.**

We all have different challenges in our different vocations and in different situations and sometime will leads us in **giving up in life even our faith, we forget about our Baptismal teachings, the oil we were anointed with and the candle we were given, St Paul in Romans is telling us we died to sin and we rose with Christ (Rms. 6:3-4). Are we still keeping it shining or we have let it be blown by the strong wind we face in the society with all the strong powerful instruments being used like radios, tvs, magazines**

Movies all these short lived excitements have really brought havoc and chaos to the gospel and we must stand firm.

We must make the church **light in such world of darkness, it is battlefield between the Good and the evil.** The church must be a place where **lighting the already brown candles is lit, acceptance of those in difficulties in life and faith.** we must have the generosity the Lord is talking about. We must be like the woman who welcomed prophet Elisha and was rewarded (2 Kings. 4:8-11, 14-16). Christ will reward us even if the world hates us which will happen.

The church must be **compassioned and generous like Christ. It must not be a judge** whether one has made big, small bad mistakes it should help such person to **begin again, to make a room for all where all will feel at home.** It must be a place where we all come to **renew our visions, revive our commitments to Christ. relight our blown out Baptismal candles, clean off our dirty Baptismal linen. restore our dignity, reclaim our space and remodel our lives again.**

This is the church Christ is calling us to work on. It must have **hospitality and we must carry that wooden cross. It must be a place where ALL CAN CALL HOME. We must work towards that.**