

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY - A - OCTOBER 12, 2014**

**"ON THIS MOUNTAIN THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL PROVIDE FOR ALL PEOPLES A FEAST OF RICH FOOD AND CHOICE WINES, JUICY, RICH FOOD AND PURE CHOICE WINES....."**

**"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN MAY BE LIKENED TO A KING WHO GAVE A WEDDING FEAST FOR HIS SON...."**

**A SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS WORKING AT MVH**

**A COLLEAGUE OF MINE ASK ME A VERY SURPRISING QUESTION:**

**"WHAT DO YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE AFTER WE DIE?"**

**RATHER SURPRISING, CAME OUT OF THE BLUE....**

**IT WAS A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.... WE WERE FRIENDS.....**

**WE HAD JUST SHARED A MEAL... SHE KNEW I WAS A PRIEST....**

**SHE WAS A "RECOVERING CATHOLIC"..... NOT RELIGIOUS, BUT SPIRITUAL**

**HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANYONE ASK YOU THAT QUESTION??**

**YOU'VE PROBABLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT....**

**WONDERED WHAT LIFE AFTER DEATH MIGHT BE FOR US.....**

**WE ALL WONDER.... WE ALL HOPE...**

**SCRIPTURE TODAY IS CLEAR ABOUT WHAT LIFE AFTER DEATH WILL BE -**

**AS WE HEAR IN OUR READINGS TODAY.....**

**IT WILL BE ONE GRAND BANQUET OPEN TO ALL.... OR IN THE WORDS OF**

**OUR GOSPEL..... A ROYAL WEDDING BANQUET, WEDDING RECEPTION.....**

**I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS GROWING UP I LEARNED FROM THE**

**BALTIMORE CATECHISM AND RELIGION CLASS THAT LIFE AFTER DEATH**

**WAS DESCRIBED AS THE BEATIFIC VISION....**

*IN MY IMAGINATION THAT WOULD BE ME AND GOD SORT OF STARING AT  
ONE ANOTHER FOR ALL ETERNITY.....*

*MY JOB IS TO PRAISE AND GLORIFY GOD FOR ALL ETERNITY*

*NOTHING AGAINST THE BEATIFIC VISION BUT IT NEVER SOUNDED TOO  
EXCITING TO ME....I WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO WAIT FOR AS LONG AS  
POSSIBLE FOR THAT TO TAKE PLACE....*

*IN THE MEANTIME, I WOULD HAVE MY SPORTS AND FRIENDS AND BE  
ABLE TO ENJOY LIFE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE...*

*IT TURNS OUT WE WEREN'T LEARNING MUCH ABOUT SCRIPTURE AND,  
IN EFFECT, THEY WERE KEEPING THE GOOD NEWS FROM US.....*

*THE GOOD NEWS THAT WE HEAR IN OUR READINGS THIS MORNING  
ABOUT LIFE AFTER DEATH....*

*THAT WONDERFUL BANQUET ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP FOR ALL PEOPLE  
A FEAST OF RICH FOOD AND CHOICE WINES, JUICY, RICH FOOD AND  
PURE, CHOICE WINES.....*

*WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE ABOUT THAT....RICH FOOD AND CHOICE WINES  
NOT ONLY THAT BUT EVEN BETTER.....*

*THAT VEIL THAT DIVIDES PEOPLE WILL BE DESTROYED  
AND EVEN DEATH ITSELF WILL BE DESTROYED.....*

*AND THE TEARS FROM EVERY FACE WILL BE WIPED AWAY....*

*WOW! YOU CAN'T BEAT THAT!!!*

*TEARS WILL BE WIPED AWAY!!*

*DEATH WILL BE WIPED AWAY!!*

***THE VEILS THAT SEPARATE US WILL BE WIPED AWAY!!!***

***WOW!***

***RICH FOOD, PURE CHOICE WINES...(AND I PRESUME ALTERNATIVE  
BEVERAGES FOR THOSE WHO DON'T LIKE WINE)***

***(AND I ALSO PRESUME NO WORRIES ABOUT CHOLESTEROL)***

***"LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD.....***

***FOR THE HAND OF THE LORD WILL REST ON THIS MOUNTAIN"***

***SOUNDS MUCH BETTER TO ME THAN JUST A BEATIFIC VISION.....***

***VERY COMMUNAL TOO...AN ETERNAL CELEBRATION...***

***OF COURSE, AS WE HEAR IN THE GOSPEL....THERE IS A CATCH...***

***THERE'S ALWAYS A CATCH.....ISN'T THERE???***

***IN THIS CASE, IT'S THE INVITATION.....***

***EVERYONE IS INVITED....THAT'S CLEAR FROM BOTH READINGS...***

***EVERYONE IS INVITED....***

***SO THE CATCH ISN'T THAT IT IS BY INVITATION ONLY....***

***THE CATCH IS RESPONDING TO THE INVITATION.....SAYING YES***

***THAT'S THE ONLY CATCH....SAYING YES....***

***EVIDENTLY, FROM OUR SECOND READING THAT ISN'T SOMETHING FOR  
SOME REASON WE ARE INCLINED TO DO....***

***A NUMBER IGNORED THE INVITATION - "COME TO THE FEAST".....***

***THEY HAD THEIR FARM TO TAKE CARE OF....***

***THEY HAD OTHER BUSINESS THAT WAS MORE PRESSING....***

***THAT'S THE CATCH.....THE INVITATION SEEMS TO COME ALONG WHEN***

***WE HAVE OTHER PLANS.....***

***MATTERS THAT SEEM MORE PRESSING, MORE IMPORTANT...***

***E.G. A WEEK OF SO AGO I REMEMBER THINKING ON WED AFTERNOON  
THAT FOR THURSDAY I HAD ABOUT THREE THINGS I NEED TO GET DONE  
AND THEN A FELLOW MARIANIST WHO I LIVE WITH AND IS TAKING AN  
INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM TO IMPROVE HIS ENGLISH COMES TO ME  
AND SAYS HE HAS A PAPER THAT IS DUE ON THURSDAY AM AND HE  
WOULD LIKE ME TO CORRECT IT/EDIT IT FOR HIM...***

***THAT IS THE WAY OUR INVITATION ARRIVES....***

***WHEN WE LEAST EXPECT IT... WHEN WE LEAST WANT IT...***

***WHEN WE HAVE OUR PLAN A ALREADY IN MIND.....***

***THE INVITATION ALWAYS COMES ALONG AS PLAN B IN OUR LIVES...***

***AND, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...***

***LIFE IS ALL ABOUT HOW YOU HANDLE PLAN B.....***

***IT SEEMS TOO ETERNAL LIFE MAY BE ABOUT HOW YOU HANDLE PLAN .***

***THE INVITE MAY COME ALONG AS SOME MINOR PLAN B...***

***E.G. A REQUEST TO EDIT AND PAPER FOR CORRECT ENGLISH...***

***OR IT MAY COME ALONG AS A MAJOR PLAN B...***

***E.G. AN ILLNESS, A LOSS OF A JOB, A SETBACK, A DISAPPOINTMENT....***

***THE INVITATION ALWAYS COMES ALONG IN A DISGUISED FORM...***

***THE IMPORTANT THING IS HOW WE RESPOND TO THE INVITE....***

***ARE WE ABLE TO MUSTER A YES....***

***TURN TO THE LORD....***

***RENEW OUR FAITH IN LIFE, IN THE LORD AND MUSTER A YES....***

***EVEN THOUGH WE HAD A MUCH BETTER PLAN A IN MIND ALL THE TIME,  
THANK YOU....***

***IN RESPONDING TO PLAN B AND THE INVITATION WE ARE LEARNING ALL  
THE TIME THAT LIFE IS NOT ABOUT ME....***

***I AM ABOUT LIFE....***

***A LESSON WE HAVE TO KEEP LEARNING OVER AND OVER - THAT WILL  
GET US INTO THE GRAND BANQUET....***

***LIFE IS NOT ABOUT ME, I AM ABOUT LIFE.....***

***BY COMING HERE THIS MORNING TO THIS BANQUET WE ARE SAYING YES  
TO OUR INVITE....***

***SORRY, NO CHOICE WINE...ONLY ALTAR WINE***

***SORRY, NO RICH FOOD...ONLY HOMEMADE, WELL BAKED BREAD...***

***BUT IT IS A BANQUET IN ITS OWN WAY...***

***AND YOU HAVE TO ADMIT....HE WAS CONSISTENT....***

***NOT ONLY DID HE PROMISE A BANQUET IN THE AFTER LIFE....***

***HE LEFT US A BANQUET AS A WAY TO REMEMBER HIM AND TO NOURISH***

***US ON OUR WAY AND HELP US TO RESPOND TO THE INVITATION TO THE***

***ETERNAL AND UNIVERSAL BANQUET - WHICH WE DEFINITELY DO NOT***

***WANT TO MISS***

***IN THE MEANTIME WE HAVE THIS EUCHARISTIC BANQUET AND A***

***BANQUET , OF SORTS, AFTER IN SI LOUNGE CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF***

***SISTER ROSE SAYING YES TO THE INVITE BY HER CONSECRATED LIVING***

*AND SERVICE 60 YEARS AS A SISTER OF CHARITY.....*

*SAYING YES IN SO MANY WAYS AS AN EDUCATOR, PRINCIPAL, SOCIAL  
WORKER AND NOW IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WITH PRISONERS AND  
BUILDING COMMUNITY AT MCDONALD'S, I UNDERSTAND, - WHICH IS  
PROBABLY THE CLOSEST THING TO A UNIVERSAL BANQUET THAT WE  
HAVE TODAY AND CERTAINLY HELPING TO BUILD OUR OWN QAC  
COMMUNITY*

*OUR BANQUET IN SI LOUNGE WILL ALSO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO MEET  
FR. ANDRE AND BRO. MAX - FROM ROME BY WAY OF FRANCE AND WEST  
AFRICA -*

*REPRESENTING WELL - THE UNIVERSAL BANQUET WE ARE ALL INVITED  
TO NOW - ESPECIALLY AS OUR WORLD GROWS SMALLER AND  
SMALLER....*

*REMEMBER MY COLLEAGUE AT MVH.... YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO KNOW  
THAT I DID TELL HER THAT INDEED MY IMAGE OF LIFE AFTER DEATH IS  
SOME KIND OF UNIVERSAL AND ETERNAL BANQUET....*

*I THINK SHE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED.....*

*AND I WOULD SAY IT IS THE BEST WE CAN DO IN DESCRIBING WHAT WE  
ACCEPT WITH FAITH AND HOPE IN OUR HEARTS*

*AND THE BEST PART IS THAT AS WE FIND OURSELVES ACCEPTING THE  
VARIOUS INVITES TO THE BANQUET THAT COME ALONG IN OUR LIVES  
WE EVEN BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE NOW THE BEGINNINGS OF THE  
ETERNAL AND UNIVERSAL BANQUET - IN A SURPRISING MANNER*

***LET US ALL RESPOND, "YES" WE ACCEPT THE INVITATION WHEN  
IT COMES ALONG - AND YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT IT DOES AND IT  
WILL.....NOW AND IN THE FUTURE  
LET US RESPOND YES....NO MATTER WHAT PLAN A WE HAVE IN MIND***