

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY - C - SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

'IF ANYONE COMES TO ME WITHOUT TURNING THEIR BACK ON FATHER AND MOTHER, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN, BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND EVEN THEIR OWN LIFE, THEY CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE'

AS I MENTIONED AT THE BEGINNING - A LOT GOING ON THIS WEEKEND

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
CANONIZATION OF MOTHER THERESA OF KALKOTTA**

PICKING UP ON OUR CIVIC HOLIDAY THEME LET ME BEGIN BY CITING AN EDITORIAL BY DAVID BROOKS IN THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS A WEEK AGO FRIDAY....AUGUST 26TH

I LOVE DAVID BROOKS, I THINK HIS EDITORIALS ON FRIDAYS ARE WORTH THE PRICE OF THE PAPER....

HE IS A SOCIAL COMMENTATOR - A MODERN DAY PROPHET, I WOULD SAY IN THAT EDITORIAL HE WROTE ABOUT WHY HE BELIEVES POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN AMERICA IS FAILING US.....

HE ADMITS THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS....

E.G. CORRUPTION AND THE FACT THAT THERE IS SO MUCH MONEY FLOATING AROUND WASHINGTON THAT SPECIAL INTERESTS GET WHAT THEY WANT AND EVERYONE ELSE GETS THE SHAFT....

EG. THE ELITE ARE SO ISOLATED THAT THEY DON'E HAVE A CLUE WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE REAL WORLD

HE ADMITS THAT BOTH HAVE SOME MERIT BUT A DEEPER FACTOR HE WOULD ARGUE IS THAT OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES THOUSANDS OF GOOD PEOPLE HAVE GONE INTO PUBLIC SERVICE BUT HAVE FOUND

***THEMSELVES ENMESHED IN A SYSTEM THAT DRAINS THEM OF THEIR
SENSE OF VOCATION....***

***(AND I WOULD SAY THAT IS TRUE IN OUR BROADER CULTURE ALSO -
THERE HAS BEEN AN EROSION OF A SENSE OF VOCATION)***

HE GOES ON TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A VOCATION AND A CAREER...

A CAREER IS SOMETHING YOU CHOOSE....

A VOCATION IS SOMETHING YOU FEEL CALLED TO...

***A PERSON CHOOSING A CAREER ASKS, "HOW CAN I GET THE BEST JOB OR
WIN THE MOST ELECTIONS?"***

***A PERSON SUMMONED BY A VOCATION ASKS, "HOW CAN MY EXISTING
ABILITIES BE PUT TO THE SERVICE OF THE GREATEST COMMON GOOD?"***

***A CAREER IS A JOB YOU DO AS LONG AS THE BENEFITS OUT-WEIGH THE
COSTS...***

***A VOCATION INVOLVES FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMETHING, WITH
SOMEONE, HAVING A CONVICTION ABOUT IT AND MAKING IT PART OF
YOUR PERSONAL IDENTITY...***

A VOCATION INVOLVES PROMISES TO SOME IDEAL...

LARGER THAN ONESELF...

***BY MEANS OF OUR VOCATION WE LEARN HOW TO LOVE, WE LEARN TO
LOVE SOMEONE, SOMETHING MORE THAN OURSELF***

***ACCORDING TO BROOKS, A VOCATION REVEALS ITSELF IN A SENSE OF
ENJOYMENT AS YOU UNDERTAKE ITS TASKS AND IT CAN'T BE EASILY
QUIT WHEN SETBACKS AND HUMILIATIONS OCCUR....***

YOU CAN NOT, NOT DO THIS THING...

BROOKS BELIEVES MANY PEOPLE ENTERED PUBLIC LIFE WITH A SENSE OF IDEALISTIC CALLING....

BUT SO MANY HAVE BEEN SWALLOWED UP BY THE SYSTEM FOR VARIOUS REASONS.....

THE IMPORTANT POINT HERE FOR ME....IS THE LACK OF A SENSE OF VOCATION NOT ONLY IN OUR POLITICAL ARENA BUT ALSO OUR WIDER CULTURE IN RECENT DECADES.....

THAT IS MY SENSE...

IN OUR GOSPEL TODAY I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS BASICALLY SAYING YOU CANNOT FOLLOW ME WITHOUT A SENSE OF VOCATION...

I AM CALLING YOU.....TO FOLLOW ME....WE ALL HAVE A CALL

THAT CALL MAY COME TO YOU THROUGH YOUR MARRIAGE, OR PERHAPS BEING A PARENT OR A GRANDPARENT.....

YOU MAY FEEL CALLED BY THIS COMMUNITY...

HOPEFULLY, THAT HAPPENS.....

YOUR CALL MAY COME THROUGH YOUR LIFE AS A SINGLE PERSON.....

CERTAINLY YOUR SENSE OF AN IDEALISTIC CALL MAY COME THROUGH YOUR WORK.....

I'M NOW READING A BOOK BY MARTIN SHEEN AND HIS SON EMILIO

ESTEVEZ ON THEIR LIFE JOURNEY TOGETHER ENTITLED "ON THE WAY"-

AS YOU KNOW HE BEGAN HERE IN DAYTON AND GRADUATED FROM CHAMINADE....

AFTER GRADUATING HE SAYS HE FOCUSED ALL HIS ENERGY ON EARNING ENOUGH MONEY TO GO TO NEW YORK. HE SOLD CHRISTMAS TREES, EVEN HOCKED HIS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS RING...

AT 19 HE KNEW ONLY ONE PERSON IN N.Y. BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER HE WRITES "YET AT A VERY DEEP LEVEL, I UNDERSTOOD THIS PURSUIT HAD TO BE MINE AND MINE ALONE. (HIS FATHER DID NOT SUPPORT) AND IT HAD TO COST ME EVERYTHING. IF I FELT I COULD GO BACK HOME AT ANY TIME I KNEW I WOULDN'T RISK EVERYTHING I HAD I NEEDED TO KNOW MY NEXT STOP WOULD BE THE STREET...".

THAT IS TURNING "YOUR BACK" ON FATHER AND MOTHER, BROTHER AND SISTER, EVEN YOUR OWN LIFE.....THAT, IS A SENSE OF VOCATION.... HE COULDN'T NOT, NOT DO IT....NOTHING COULD STOP HIM...

IT WAS HIS PASSION...TO BE AN ACTOR

AND THAT PASSION HAS CLEARLY BECOME HIS WAY OF PICKING UP THE CROSS & FOLLOWING CHRIST - HIS COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON GOOD HIS PATH TO LEARNING HOW TO LOVE.....

IN MOTHER THERESA OF KALKOTTA WE OBVIOUSLY HAVE ANOTHER PERSON WHO HAD A SENSE OF VOCATION....AND THE COMMON GOOD

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION? WHAT IN YOUR LIFE CAN YOU NOT, NOT DO? THAT IS YOUR VOCATION - IN THAT IS YOUR CALL TO PICK UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW CHRIST? CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMON GOOD THAT IS WHERE YOU LEARN HOW TO LOVE

THAT IS ALSO ONE REASON OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM IS SO

***IMPORTANT - SO VITAL IN HELPING OUR YOUTH TO EVENTUALLY
DISCOVER THEIR VOCATION - HOW THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE
COMMON GOOD***

WHERE THEY WILL LEARN HOW TO LOVE...

***IS THERE ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT FOR OUR YOUTH THAN FINDING
THEIR UNIQUE VOCATION?***

***IS THERE ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT FOR PARENTS AND ADULTS
THAN HELPING A YOUNG PERSON DISCOVER A SENSE OF VOCATION?***

***LET US PRAY FOR THAT TODAY AND EVERYDAY - A REDISCOVERY OF A
SENSE OF VOCATION AMONG US, PARTICULARLY AMONG OUR YOUTH....***

***IT IS BY WAY OF OUR VOCATION THAT WE LEARN TO PICK UP OUR CROSS,
CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMON GOOD, LEARN HOW TO LOVE AND
FOLLOW CHRIST....***

PRAYERS OF MOTHER THERESA

LET US PRAY

GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD.....AS MOTHER THERESA HAS SAID,

LET US DO SMALL THINGS WITH GREAT LOVE.....

***MAY WE LEARN TO SPEAK KIND WORDS BECAUSE THEIR ECHOES ARE
TRULY ENDLESS...***

***AND MAY WE LEARN TO SMILE AT SOMEONE BECAUSE IT IS AN ACTION
OF LOVE , A GIFT TO THAT PERSON....***

LET US LIVE SIMPLY SO THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE....

WE PRAY THIS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST THE LORD

LET US PRAY

***GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL GOD, MOTHER THERESA HAS SAID THAT
PRAYER IS NOT ASKING.***

***PRAYER IS PUTTING ONESELF IN THE HANDS OF OUR GOD, AT HIS
DISPOSITION, AND LISTENING TO HIS VOICE IN THE DEPTH OF OUR
HEARTS.....***

MAY WE NOW LISTEN IN THE DEPTHS OF OUR HEARTS TO YOUR WORD

WHICH WE ARE ABOUT TO HEAR PROCLAIMED.....

MAY WE PUT OURSELVES IN YOUR HANDS AND AT YOUR DISPOSITION....

WE ASK THIS CHRIST OUR LORD...