

Homily

Mary, our Mother, we give ourselves totally to you as your possession and property. Please make of us, of all that we are and have, whatever most pleases you. Let us be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for bringing the greatest possible glory to God. Amen

I know a man who has made a million dollars twice. Today he is NOT a millionaire. He is a hard working factory manager who has grown in humility, wisdom and holiness through his successes and failures. To put it succinctly, he has learned a lot about GLORY.

According to the wisdom of Tim: Glory has nothing to do with standing atop a big pile of money, but of sitting beside his wife who has loved him for richer and for poorer. Glory has nothing to do with accolades from *Business Weekly*, but from hearing his children say, "I love you, Dad." Glory has nothing to do with the best ever 16-ounce filet mignon and a \$100 glass of port, but of bowing in the presence of the Lord and receiving real food, his Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

In today's liturgy, the Church will have us pray that we *desire GLORY*. Not any earthly glory. Not any earthly glory, but the glory whose beauty is shown to us in the *body* of Jesus Christ.

In the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared in glory and spoke of the exodus Jesus was to accomplish in Jerusalem, ultimately on the cross. The cross of Jesus Christ defines for us both beauty and glory.

How slow we are to learn that human beauty has nothing to do with hair or cloths or shoes. It has nothing to do with the complexion of our skin or the number on the scale when we stand on it. Beauty is to lay down your life for a friend...a stranger...your family...the poor...the broken...the anxious...the depressed...the suicidal...the vulnerable.

The beautiful are those who wash the feet of others, bring the Eucharist to the shut-in and dying. The beautiful are those who put on a religious habit or a bride's dress because Jesus has invited them to their vocation.

St. Paul, as always, is clear and cutting: *If you seek glory in the world you are an enemy of the cross*. The mystery of faith is that when we choose Jesus and his paschal mystery, we attain a share in his eternal glory.

So this is a path to glory. It is not a business plan, an investment plan or a plan to land on the largest stage on earth. We simply begin with the Word of God.

- To seek nourishment from the Word of God daily, not just in Lent, but daily we delve into God's Word. This is for all of us. I understand that the Word of God is like an acquired taste. I understand that it is dry and tasteless at times. But even in those times we receive more nourishment than from any other distraction. All of the earthly things that you use to pass time and distract you from your cares, they are ultimately a table of malnourishment. You eat plenty but it leaves you bloated and still hungry. Not the Word of God. Every time it will give you something you need, especially when you don't know you need something.

- The Word of God gives us spiritual insight made pure. Our spiritual insight can be blurred by laziness and apathy. We can go blind by filling our eyes with images that lead to lust and acts against chastity. Steeped in the Word of God, our spiritual insight is made pure.
- Once we see clearly, we can see beauty—Jesus Christ crucified. No matter what we see in the world, from landscapes to sunsets, no beauty is as beautiful as our Lord and Savior. He who conquered the ancient serpent on the Cross has risen from the dead.

In Christ Jesus we are beautiful! As St. Paul wrote, “He will change our mortal bodies to conform to his glorified body. This is glory: to be with God forever in heaven.