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July 18, 2021



We are a loving, supportive, and vibrant Catholic community committed to being a welcoming parish family by spreading the Love of Jesus Christ throughout our community and into the world.

CHRISTIANS MUST BE PEOPLE OF PRAYER AND ACTION

The Christian life is a continuous passage from the presence of God to the presence of people and back to God again. Prayer is essentially listening to God and talking to Him. One of our main problems is that we do not truly allow God the opportunity to speak to us. We also do not know how to "be still and listen." Hence, we are often in danger of refusing to allow God to recharge us with spiritual energy and strength.

In addition, we do not set aside enough time for God to speak to us and for us to speak to Him. How can we shoulder life's burdens if we have no contact with the Lord of Life? How can we do God's work unless we rely on God's strength? And how can we receive that strength unless we pray to Him individually, in the family, and as a parish community in the Church, and receive His grace by participating in the Holy Mass and through the reception of the Sacraments?

However, we must never seek God's fellowship in order to avoid the fellowship of humans but always in order to prepare for it. From our reflection on today's Gospel, let us remind ourselves that the Christian life consists of meeting with God in the secret place so that we may serve people more effectively in the marketplace.

The Church has the double responsibility of teaching and feeding: People today find it difficult to balance those two aspects of the Christian life. Some apparently believe that the social ministry of the Church is all that is needed to make Christ present in the world. Others seem to believe that the Church's major concern should be preaching the Gospel, rather than feeding the hungry and healing the sick. The Church's duty, so the argument goes, is to spread the Gospel and provide for public worship.

Both views are one-sided. There can be no true Christianity without the proclamation of the Gospel. Teaching the Word of God is essential to a Christian community. But that is only half of the story. Christians must also display the same compassion for the suffering that Jesus exhibited by meeting the social and material needs of others – even those who are not members of our Church.

Besides the official leaders of Church and Society, many others must offer pastoral leadership at a local and domestic level. Parents and teachers are the most obvious examples of this. In practice it is they who help to develop a child's character, laying the foundations for growth into adult maturity. They pass on values by which young people can live, and foster qualities that can grow over the years. For this they need the sensitivity and compassion shown by Jesus in today's Gospel. "He had compassion for them and began to teach them many things."

May the Lord be with us all, and may He strengthen us and every leader with the courage and faith to be His good Shepherds now and always. Amen. In Christ, Father Akuti