

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 14, 2018

I have always admired the young man that is talked about in the gospel today. He's on the right track. He is animated and eager to make something out of his life. He is looking for the truth. He is looking for his niche in life. He says to Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" What is the secret to a life that is full and complete?

We all asked that question in one way or another. The young man has already done well in adhering to the rudimentary requirements of a good and full life. The 10 Commandments are pretty much common-sense directives necessary for living a life that is orderly.

But now Jesus tells the young man, "You are lacking in one thing. Sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." This is where the young man gets tripped up and so do I. I have no doubt that this young man went a long way in accomplishing what he wanted to do. I hope that he has found heaven. I feel that I am very much like that young man. He went away sad because he had many possessions, his heart was tied to the earth.

I know with my own self that all of the things I have accumulated, they just don't fill the bill. I get interested and excited about a lot of different things. But underneath it all I know that I am most happy when I am following Him. That takes on many different forms.

Last week, during the pumpkin Fest and during our Masses here there were some protesters outside. I went out to talk to them. I introduced myself and welcomed them. They claim that all institutional religion is the work of the devil and that we're all going to hell. They sound like pretty unhappy people. It turns out they were recording me and they put our whole conversation on their website.

With the latest scandals in the church it is understandable to protest and decry the church. This weekend in all of the parishes in our diocese a letter from our Bishop is being passed out. It is an insert in this week's bulletin. As I was talking to the protesters last week a young man and his family went walking by. He just rolled his eyes and had a disgusted look on his face. I think he represents a large majority of the people out there. I think he is also like the young man in the gospel looking for truth, looking for authentic leadership, looking for God.

We all need to pass through the eye of the needle. In an interview I gave over at our Assumption Catholic schools last week, I pointed out that the Church is more needed than ever in this world of conflicting and contradictory ideologies. To whom shall we go? In whom shall we place our trust?

The Catholic Church has been through terrible times before. And I know that there will always be issues and need for reform. In spite of that, I totally believe that it was the intent of Jesus to establish this Church. The eloquence and scholarship and leadership throughout the centuries has been tested again and again and has prevailed again and again. How could our Lord not have wanted an established structure from which the good news of the gospel would be proclaimed and the grace of sacramental life be celebrated?

Please read Bishop Callahan's letter carefully. Be diligent in seeking the joy of the gospel and the beauty of the church.