

16th Sunday Ordinary Time - C

In today's 2nd reading from COL Paul speaks about a MYSTERY:

"A mystery that has been hidden for ages is now manifested in God's Holy Ones.
The mystery is this: CHRIST IS IN YOU"

Paul is reminding the COL, and us, that we have received MYSTERY – the mystery is that Christ is in us.

Sadly – when it comes to this mystery many people, us included, are clueless
We go about our day – busy, busy, busy, gotta do, gotta go, gotta get this done
We go about our day overlooking the reason for our being
We forget about the presence of Christ in us – and His presence in each other
Like Martha in the Gospel we are concerned with doing, instead of being.
Martha was busy doing this and that in her valiant efforts to prepare for Jesus
Mary, her sister, was concerned with being, with being with Jesus

Several years ago someone came up with the idea of WWJD bracelets – some still wear it
WWJD – What Would Jesus Do?

The bracelet was supposed to remind us to do what Jesus would do
Great idea – but – here is an even better guide

Instead of focusing on what would Jesus do out there somewhere

Focus on the presence of Jesus right here, right now, in Your lives - - -
In your family, In your friends, In your boss, In the world

This is the mystery that St. Paul is speaking about – Jesus Christ is here – in US

When we tune in to the presence of the Lord, we force ourselves to consider if a particular action (or inaction) will strengthen or weaken His Presence in us.

For example:

Some people say "The Church teaches that this or that is wrong"

It's not about what the Church teaches - it's a matter of the presence of Christ

It's not merely a matter that the Church teaches it's wrong to get drunk,

It's a matter of considering what this action is doing to the presence of Jesus in us.

A friend of mine once said "A good way to judge whether an action is right or wrong is to ask yourself whether or not you can pray better after you do it"

Interesting, and true

If after we do something we find it difficult to pray, then we have probably put something between ourselves and the Lord – HE DIDN'T MOVE

We need to pray. Here is the truth – whether you like it or not, YOU are God's beloved

He has planted within each of us an innate nature desire to be with Him, our beloved

We need Christ within us

We need to make time every day to recognize His presence within us

We need to stop and hear the Lord in the silence

We cannot allow the concerns of the world to hide the only thing that matters –

The presence of Jesus is in us and those we love.

When we make the time to be in His presence,

When we join Mary of Bethany in just enjoying Jesus in our lives -

We will find ourselves walking a road less traveled, a road of serenity in the midst of hectic world

When we choose to nurture the presence of the Lord within us, we, like Mary, will be choosing the better part