

October 11, 2020 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners:

In the parable of today's gospel, the king is likened to God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, the wedding feast Eternal banquet in heaven, servants the prophets or disciples of Jesus, the guests invited first but refused to come the Israelites, the guests invited later the Gentiles like us.

“The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike.” This means that the door of salvation became open to the Gentiles, yet it presupposes the fact that one need to repent of one's sins, be forgiven and baptized, and be reborn as a child of God. At the wedding feast was a man not dressed in wedding garment. What is the wedding garment? It symbolizes the state of a soul that one ought to have to enter into heaven. When we were baptized, as a symbolic and ritual gesture, we wore white garment signifying that we became a new creature pure after our sins were cleansed. The wedding garment does not simply mean to preserve that purity. The addition of splendor to it through our holiness is required.

“The hall was filled with guests.” It's amazing to see that there was only one person who was not dressed in a wedding garment. It is most likely that the other people who were not dressed properly didn't even dare to think of entering the hall. Then, what made this man go in there? Perhaps, he might have misunderstood that the king would just let him stay there. Even though he had not lived a faithful life as a Catholic and died without repentance of his sins, God the Father would not annihilate him because of his infinite mercy. But justice and fairness will dominate before God at the judgment seat.

Why wasn't this man wearing the wedding garment? It wasn't because he did not know because when he was asked the reason, he was reduced to silence. Otherwise, he would've said, “I didn't know that.” Perhaps, he might have forgotten that requirement, or have taken off the white garment he had worn at his baptism because it became so dirty owing to his sins, and wore different clothes. He could've cleaned the garment and put it back on through the Sacrament of Confession. Or he might have thrown it away because it became so burdensome for him to keep wearing it. He might have found the new way of life that his baptism entailed and demanded was too much for him to bear. In any ways, it was most likely that he had not been actively involved in the faith community. If he had, he would've been continuously reminded to wear

the wedding garment. Also, he might have been able to reflect on his life by looking at the lives of other members of the community. Two chimney cleaners went into a respective chimney to clean it and got out at the same time, one's face was clean and the other one's not. Who do you think would've washed one's face? Of course, the one with clean face did. He could've thought that his face wasn't clean while looking at the other's unclean face. Unfortunately, all the members of a faith community are not angels. We at times may witness some unpleasant behaviors in some members. Instead of getting disappointed and leaving the community, we just need to learn from them and move on. If we fail to be involved in the faith community, we may get enclosed in our own small world and be unable to face objective truths about us. We may get mistaken that we are living a good life. As a result, we cannot wear the wedding garment

All of us were invited to the wedding feast and have accepted the invitation at our baptism. We need to always remain in the faith community so as to keep wearing the wedding garment. These days, we are exposed to a temptation to stay away from the community due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Let us constantly stay involved in our faith community remembering the word of Jesus, "Many are invited, but few are chosen" so that we, as a community, may together continue our journey toward the heavenly banquet.

Fr. Don Bosco Park