

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time • A
Christ the King • January 19-20, 2008

The Christmas decorations are down, stored for another year. The vestments and banners are back to green. We have entered Ordinary Time on the church calendar. We may think that Ordinary Time is a time with no festivals to celebrate. That Ordinary Time is Not-Advent, Not-Christmas, Not-Lent, Not-Easter. We may think that Ordinary Time is just what is left over after all the special events are taken out. It is just the same-old, same-old. But not so! Christmas and Easter are just expanded celebrations of the ordinary, the regular way that we celebrate. What really marks us as a Christian community is our Sunday celebration of Eucharist. Here we celebrate the paschal mystery: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ each and every week – and there is nothing same-old here.

Doesn't the liturgical calendar also reflect our experience in life? Don't we spend most of our time during the ordinary, the routine. Pick out any day in the calendar and you can probably predict what you will do, because we do about the same things every day. Students know they will probably have homework. Mom's and dad's will probably be driving someone across town to a meeting, practice, a game or to a friends house. Our work life is also marked by routine. At home it is also the same: dishes to be done, clothes to be washed, the house to be cleaned. That's our routine.

For most of us, day to day life settles down into a schedule. We do what we need to do. And we do it over and over again. This is our ordinary time and isn't most of life ordinary time?

The wonderful thing is that Jesus leaped into our ordinary time. Think about all that Jesus did. We see our Lord doing very ordinary things with very ordinary people. The Son of God came to be with us in the routine of life. He didn't come to the capital of the world, Rome. He came to a small, out-of-the way, ordinary town. He walked ordinary streets. He had very ordinary friends. He did very ordinary things.

So, what does this mean? It means that ordinary life is sanctified. The day to day things we do become holy. And that makes all the difference. In the Gospel, John the Baptist recognized Jesus. What was Jesus doing? Simply walking by.

We are invited to follow John's example. We are invited to recognize God in our lives. The ordinary becomes holy when we recognize God. When we pay attention to God's presence, things are different. God is present in the ordinary, daily things we do. We just need to recognize Him, to Behold the Lamb of God.

Look in your family. To laugh and have fun together, to love and forgive all the little irritating things we do to each other when we live close together. These are ordinary ways of Christians.

Look in your job. The work we do is made holy because God is present.

Look in your prayer. Reserve time for prayer in our daily routine of the ordinary. Remember Christ frequently withdrew to pray.

Look in the ordinary because God is here.

The ordinariness of our daily lives has been made holy because God the Son has entered into the ordinary routine of life. All we do becomes sacred; and daily life, a holy routine. It isn't so ordinary after all.

Adapted from Fr. Clyde A. Bonar, Ph.D., 2 Ordinary Time (cbonar@cfl.rr.com)