

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B**

Recall St. Paul's words from the last line in today's Second Reading: "The world in its present form is passing away." The "Good Old Days" of our youth are receding into the rearview mirror of time. It's not just us who notice this, it was being observed in the 1st century by Paul in his Second Letter to the Corinthians.

I believe that every generation somehow longs for those "Good Old Days" as we advance into the horizon of our electronic social media modern era. Why can't things be like they used to be when it appeared that life was so much simpler? What is behind this yearning for nostalgia? I believe that it is our dislike for a changing world. Yet, we cannot stop this cultural advancement in time any more than the people in the time of St. Paul could.

For everything that is worst today than in those "golden years of yore", I believe that we could find two or three things that are better than back then. We realize that the world has always been in a state of transformation. It's just that the rate of transformation appears to have advanced more rapidly than in the past. Now for the shocker! Maybe that's not all bad. We even see that in the universal church, as well as, in our parish.

I would suggest that change is at the heart of the life that God is calling us toward. This transformation that I just mentioned is something that God wants to be involved in with us. It was through fruit of his passion, death and resurrection that he wishes to nourish us as we journey onward to our hoped for eternal reward. This journey of which I speak is not so much as to a "place" but to a "person": God. Upon whom we should focus our attention and stop gazing over our shoulder at those "good old days" in our past.

It is in Mark's Gospel as he describes the "call" of Simon, Andrew, James and John as he recognized and recalled the forward looking vision of these men. While we don't have a great deal of detail about the "call" of the Apostles, we can construe that Jesus' invitation to them was an opportunity to try something new and we witness their immediate response to this "call" --- as they abandoned their nets and followed him.

Their "new" lives had replaced their "old" lives and so it is with us. Our willingness to change or our resistance to it makes all the difference in the world. I believe that you will agree with me that our world is changing or if we used the wording from the Second Letter to the Corinthians, it is "passing away". Are we ready to get on board with change or will we be left on the "docks" of time?

So, what needs to change? As you would imagine, "one size" does not fit all. Maybe God is calling us to a life that looks a bit different than the one we have --- maybe a new career, location or new friends. It may be that God is opening new doors for us that we had never thought of before.

What is it in our personal lives that God would like to see "pass away"? What needs to be transformed? What in our lives do we need to let go of, so that we can start a new beginning on our journey of faith? What's preventing us from being all that God is calling us to be?

As Christians, I would ask you to remember just one thing: the best day always lie ahead.