

October 2017

Abide in me as I abide in you. (John 15:4)

Lectio Divina, read: John 15: 4-7

Reflection:

For the last few months we have been reflecting on the third pillar – Sacraments. We have already journeyed through Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. Reflections on Matrimony, Holy Orders and Anointing of the sick are awaited. In this Lectio Divina, lets us reflect on the priceless gift of sacraments and understand in wonderment how indispensable a gift they are to us. God loves us so much that He wants to make us like himself. It is through Sacraments that God initiates, transforms and perfects us into his likeness. Just as the vine and its branches, the sacraments conform us to the image of Christ.

Jesus instituted the Sacraments. The Church did not invent them. Sacraments are not anything we do for God rather what God does for us. The Trinity comes to dwell in us through the sacraments. The Holy Spirit is the loving, transformative power at work behind every sacrament. Sacraments are the essential means by which God infuses into our weakened soul, super natural grace, enabling us to share in His divine life.

Sacraments are the visible signs of the invisible grace. The signs; water, oil, wine, bread, prayers etc. can be perceived by the naked eye but the invisible can only be grasped through the eyes of faith. By faith, the natural; matter, words and deeds transcend and operate in the supernatural realm. God uses the ordinary to give us the extraordinary, the natural to give us the supernatural.

These ordinary means of divine grace elevate us to where God is. They help us experience heaven on earth. They shape us and mould us to live in the beatific vision of God forever by means of His divine grace.

God comes to abide in us through the sacraments. He is inviting us to abide in Him just as He abides in us. Sacraments are powerful means to grow in intimate fellowship with God. God shares His holiness with us so that through us, He can sanctify others too.

Let us also become a sacrament, making visible to others, the invisible transforming power of Christ, as Christ became for us the sacrament of the Father.

Saint's Quote:

"When you approach the tabernacle remember that God has been waiting for you for twenty centuries."
Saint Josemaría Escrivá

To Do:

Consciously allow the grace you experience in Communion and Reconciliation to move you into secret acts of penance, mercy, love and self discipline.

