

Ordinary Time 2C 2016

No Ordinary Time

What a difference a week makes! Last week this church was aglow with Christmas decorations; this week the decorations are gone. Last week we were still celebrating the feast of Christmas; this week we have entered the season of Ordinary Time.

Although the Church calls the period we have just entered “ordinary time,” there is nothing ordinary about this time. Indeed, we might even call it “extraordinary time.” How could it be otherwise? As followers of Jesus Christ, we are awash in a vast ocean of God’s grace; we are awash in the deep sea of God’s mercy. To be sure, the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are the great periods in the church’s liturgical year, but it is during this period that the church calls her “ordinary time” that we are summoned to live the mystery we celebrate at Christmas and Easter.

For example, we have just celebrated the mystery of the incarnation, the mystery of the word made flesh, and now we are called to live that mystery by seeing the presence of God in the ordinary events of our everyday life. In another few weeks, we will enter the season of Lent and celebrate the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection. And when we return to ordinary time, the church will challenge us to live the mystery of the Christ’s death and resurrection in our everyday life.

So you see there is nothing ordinary about ordinary time. There is nothing ordinary about being a Catholic, a Christian, a follow of Jesus Christ. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to live in an extraordinary way in our everyday life. We are

called to see the extraordinary grace of God in our ordinary lives. We are called to live the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection in our everyday life.

Let me give you two examples of just how extraordinary our everyday lives are here at St. Mary's—even if we may not always be aware of it. First, consider the different ways the Spirit of God is at work in our parish community—something I see every day. I see people with all kinds of extraordinary spiritual gifts that make our parish the body of the living and risen Christ. I see parishioners with gifts of extraordinary faith, I see parishioners with gifts of extraordinary wisdom, I see people who can heal by their word and presence, people who pray with extraordinary fervor, people with gifts of extraordinary administration. I see the extraordinary presence of God's Spirit in our parish every day.

Second, as I reflected on today's gospel, it occurred to me that Christ is always changing the ordinary water of our lives into the wondrous wine of his new life. I see this in people who have experienced a deep conversion that has led them to a renewed appreciation of their faith. I see this in people whose lives have been turned around because they have turned to Christ. I see this in people whose lives were once as plain as water but are now filled with the richness of God's new wine that is Jesus Christ. And, of course, every time that we celebrate this Eucharist, all of us witness to how ordinary bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ.

No, there is nothing ordinary about our lives. How could our lives be ordinary, if we live in Christ. How could this time or any other time be ordinary if we live in the power of God's Spirit?