

Sunday August 7, 2022  
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **Parishioner Reflection**

*By: Gerald Mackrell*

From today's collect. 'That we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised.' Today's readings emphasize the depth of gratitude we owe to our forefathers.

We today are blessed by our faith in the promises of God to our forefathers. The book of Wisdom tells us that the children of God offered sacrifice and with one accord they agreed to the Divine Laws of God. They accepted the rigors of this life, the blessings, and dangers this life posed, this due to their absolute faith in God's promises. Thankfully, the faith of our fathers is living still, we are the benefactors of this great faith. We are also the forefathers of tomorrow's faithful. What an awesome responsibility we have to the next generation. Will they be able to repeat the words of the song, "faith of our fathers living still?"

In Hebrews, Paul the apostle writes. Faith is the things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. The Old Testament is filled with miracles and promises made to the chosen people. Things they cannot see and promises by an unseen God. The tents that Abraham and his peoples lived in, symbolized the temporary nature of their earthly bodies. The presence of God with them emphasized the eternal spirit in them. Faith in the promises of God was always foremost in their minds. To enter the eternal city with its permanent foundation, the architect, being none other than God HIMSELF, this was the goal, that the faith of our fathers aspired to. Faith in the unseen Father and Creator of all things was so ingrained in their character illustrates the impact the presence of God had in their lives.

Luke's gospel talks of Jesus reaffirming the promises of God to our forefathers. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." He goes on to say, "Sell your possessions and give alms." Jesus is really telling us to get rid of our obsession with things and to give thought to our neighbours on this journey of life. He continues with, "Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out," My first thought was, what a strange request? Then, what to put in this purse? And what is it for?" Jesus answered that question with. "Fill it with treasures from heaven where no thief will come near." Filling this purse with treasures from heaven can only mean pearls from God. Love, peace, patience, kindness, forgiveness, in other words, let the commandments of God be ingrained in us as they were in our forefathers. This purse filled with the

attributes demanded by God provide assurance that our goal of eternal life in the City of God is achievable. This is His promise.

Luke must now impart to us this vital warning from Jesus. "Be prepared." Our time in this tent city (physical lifetime) is extremely short. It is only the spirit within that can evade death. From biblical teachings in Genesis, we know that sin cannot exist in the presence of God. This very temporary existence offers us the opportunity of redemption and life in the spirit.

Jesus, whose only desire is for we to be reunited with the Father, implores us to discard our sinful ways in preparation for just that moment.

Time is the enemy of the body, sin the demise of the spirit.