

Homily: Wednesday 3rd Week of Easter



1. "On that day a great persecution..."
2. There is a saying, that when life gives you lemons ... slice them up and ask for some tequila and salt. When adversity, persecution and misfortune befall you as a Christian, use that as an opportunity to grow in virtue. Persecution comes in many forms and within many contexts, even within an academic context. When you are justifiably and objectively expecting an A, and yet you receive a C, that's form of academic persecution isn't it? Well, use that experience to cultivate in you the virtue of justice and fairness, so that you don't do the same to others.
3. Allowing God's grace to abound in the midst of sin and adversity is the message contained in the first reading. Persecution has been part of the Church since its beginning, its founder was himself nailed on the cross. And today, Christians remain the most persecuted religious group in the world. And true to the words of Tertullian who said "the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians", Christianity has managed to thrive to this day, notwithstanding of course the dark history of the Church. But why? Fundamentally because we (and our ancestors in faith) have faith in the one who constantly invites us to have faith in him.
4. "This is the will of my Father..., believe in me..."
5. The simplicity of faith! Christ doesn't ask for much, he simply asks us to believe in him. Sometimes the institutional structure of the Church makes demands upon believers that hinder them from appreciating the simplicity of Christ's invitation. While some structures and the rules that issue from them are necessary for the ordering of the life of the Church, they sometimes impose a burden of guilt on the

believers. When we peel off these secondary demands, we lay bare the simple invitation of Christ, “believe in me”.

6. He didn't ask people to pay anything to him in return for his sermons and healing powers; not in the form of money, not in the form of a piece of land, nor piece clothing. He simply asked them to believe in him. He himself derives no benefit from our faith in him. The faith that he asks people to have in him is simply for the good of the believers themselves.
7. So, why not simply believe and let that faith in him transform our daily lives?
8. How does this faith in him transform our lives? Well, we believe that the sun has risen not because we can see it, but because by its light, we can see everything else. By Christ, by his light, we have a clearer perspective of our life, its meaning and its purpose.
9. “When you jump into the swimming pool to swim, you don't grab hold of the water because you will sink and drown. Instead, you just relax and float.”
10. Let us abandon ourselves in faith to the pool of Christ's love and God's fidelity, let us just relax and float in them.

By Moyo Anold, S.J.