



Essential Evangelization

What a Great Place - Heaven!

What a great place Heaven will be! Where the “eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, and the tongue of the mute will sing.” Today’s first reading from Isaiah is a prophetic leap into the fabulous future justice of God’s final kingdom. Won’t it be great to be reunited someday with our loved ones free from their final infirmities, and be free from our own flaws and weaknesses too? But as Catholic Christians what does this mean for us and living in the world today?

Our very own Pope Benedict XVI just published a very important document for today’s world entitled “*Caritas in Veritate*,” or *Charity Is at the Heart of the Church*. This was Pope Benedict’s 3rd, and very timely, encyclical. Here are just a few highlights from our Vicar of Christ, “The world’s wealth is growing in absolute terms, but inequalities are on the increase....As society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbors, but does not make us brothers....Profit as the exclusive goal without the common good as its ultimate end, risks destroying wealth and creating poverty...The market must not consider the poor as a burden, but as a resource....When a society moves toward a denial or suppression of life, it ends up no longer finding the necessary motivation and energy to strive for man’s true good.... Faith (however) does not rely on privilege or positions of power, but only on Christ.”

As Catholic Christians we need to be cognizant and supportive of social justice and the rights of all, especially the weakest of our brothers and sisters in today’s world. Although we may bemoan today’s US economy, the truth of the matter is we now have a global economy and our many years of prosperity are beginning to “level” with that of developing nations. We need to respect and embrace life and encourage the dignity of all peoples in our nation and abroad. We need to turn away from our material and pleasure excesses of our past and rely more on Jesus whose “yoke is easy and burden light.” In today’s Gospel Jesus heals a deaf and mute man. What can we do to follow Christ’s example and help our new “neighbors” in today’s world?

“Listen my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him”

From today’s Second Reading

James 2: 4-5

*This is one of a series of articles on
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