

Second Hand Preacher

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016

Romans 13: 11-14

What do you do when you first wake up? I try and think of things I'm grateful for and send it up as a short prayer to Jesus. I also pet my cat that is usually starving for affection. Then I use the bathroom getting myself physically ready for the day. Praying my Liturgy of the Hours comes next. Then usually I eat a quick breakfast and I'm out the door. Routines help us survive. They ground us so we can be ready to face the complexity of our day.

St. Paul is writing the Christians in Rome, but one wonders if he knew this was going to be a universal letter. Having a community in Rome was a big deal as now they had more credibility than just existing in smaller cities. Rome was the center of the world at that time and many ideas flowed out of Rome including Christian ideals.

Paul wants the Romans to be prepared. He wants them to get their day started out on the right foot. He wants them to awake from their sleep and be able to face the problems of the day. Being a large city where there was much corruption, the sins of lust, gluttony, and jealousy were around them in full force. Some of the Christians, despite being baptized, fell into some of their old habits. Jesus Christ is the remedy for these sins. If they are to walk with Jesus, then they can be in the light.

In the light is the place we want to be as well. We need to do away with division. It only hurts us and we never get anywhere. I'm tired of people always wanting to have an "us vs. them" relationship. We are stronger when we put on Christ and make it a "WE." We can make a difference in our parish, our Archdiocese, our universal church, and our world. Addictions are darkness and they lead to discontent. An addiction separates us from the community and often we feel isolated from God. God, of course, is always there and we always can choose him. If we do, we can be better prepared to enter into God's glory.