

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

***One aspect of our human nature is that most do not like to wait.

Most people hate waiting in line or for a delayed event to start.

We dislike it when a project is held up or a trip that is postponed.

-One of my own pet peeves is waiting for an elevator in the hospital for an emergency call, slow internet, slow drivers, a late flight or a cancelled one, and my very favorite one is waiting at a green light with someone in front of me that is texting on a phone.

-Time always seems to drag when we have to wait for something important. This is true for us at any age.

And it is especially true for children, teens, and young adults.

However, with real maturity and advancing old age, we learn to accept waiting. At times, however, it can still be frustrating, distracting, and even discouraging.

-A famous writer once said that we must live with the suspense of our own life's unfolding. It is waiting with the realization of our incompleteness. We are waiting for that unknown something that we sense will complete us and make us whole!

-During the time of Jeremiah the prophet, the Chosen People were being scattered to the four winds. Israel was led captive to Assyria. Judah was exiled to Babylon. Some even fled to Egypt, taking the unwilling Jeremiah with them. In all this disruption and

displacement, the faithful few had so little hope. Yet, these were the Remnant who kept their religious beliefs no matter where they happened to be. Consequently, God used Jeremiah to bring them some comfort and hope. There would be a time of restoration. Every faithful person would be included. The blind, the lame, mothers with children, and those with a child in their womb would be brought back. This would happen because God was faithful and loved them.

-However, none of this happened for generations to come. And when that restoration finally began it continued to evolve over hundreds of years!

-Bartimaeus of St. Mark's Gospel was someone who waited. He waited in suspense every day of his life. He was blind. He was a beggar. Each day he sat and waited for the coin or two that would sustain him. Bartimaeus was incomplete and he knew it!

However, suddenly there was hope. Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. So Bartimaeus cried out for help. People tried to silence him. But he would not be silenced. So, Jesus stopped and had him brought forth and cured him. What was really amazing is that Bartimaeus did not go his separate way afterwards. Instead, he became a disciple of Jesus. His faithfulness to God resulted in a special grace. As a new disciple, he no longer had to be led by

the hand of someone else. And so he followed Jesus who was on his way to suffering and death in Jerusalem!

-The reality of life is that we are all incomplete and we know it. Experience has proved this, time and time again. Nothing here, in this life, can completely fill us. True believers seem to know this and understand that only God can fill and fulfill them. But God's plan for us takes time to unfold. And so much of our life is waiting for that plan to develop and take place in our own regard.

-What is so heart breaking is that so many give up on God because God doesn't seem to respond. God doesn't do what they want or when they want it. Some even deny His existence because they see so much evil in the world. And some of that evil has touched their lives in terrible ways.

-Nevertheless, God is always present. God might not change our situation or accelerate our personal growth. But He is always there. He is there with His grace. He is there with His Love and His Mercy. He is always there with His mysterious providence. And He is there with His promise of a future life, a life that is beyond our ability even to imagine! So let us take heart. Let us pray for the grace of patience and steadfastness. May we trust in God's plan for us as it unfolds during our present life of suspense and incompleteness. May we wait and let God always lead us.