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Twenty-eight Sunday in Ordinary Time-Cycle A

by SR. JULIEMARIE MCDONALD, SND. on 10/13/2017
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Twenty-eight Sunday in Ordinary Time-Cycle A

"The Kingdom of God may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son."(Mt 22:2)

Readings: Is 25: 6-10A Psalm 23 Phil 4: 12-14, 19-20 Mt 22: 1-14

Reflection:

John J. Pilch in *The Cultural World of the Prophets*, writes that Isaiah's reading is a "little apocalypse," showing how God restores his people Israel. (p. 108) Today's Psalm 23 bridges the first reading with the Gospel. Psalm 23 sings of God, who is kind and merciful, leading the way for his people. This restoration of Israel brings joy, satisfaction and fulfillment mirrored in the Gospel, the parable of the wedding feast. Come to my banquet, invites the king. Are we ready to answer the king's invitation?

Not yet! Like the people of Israel, we have some personal things we need to accomplish.

About Sr. Juliemarie McDonald, SND

Sister Juliemarie McDonald joined the Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio in 1951. She holds an MA in English Studies from John Carroll University MA in Scripture from St. Charles Seminary. After 32 years of teaching classes ranging from first grade to college level, she then became a researcher, campus minister, director of religious education and a pastoral minister in Mease Hospital in Dunedin, Florida. In her semi-retirement, Sister Juliemarie writes reflections and faith sharing sessions for the young sisters in formation in Africa, Philippines, Korea, India and the USA. Her spare time is spent as a crafter.



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At times, these needs keep us from both the earthly and heavenly banquets. We have our farms, family matters and business to attend to. How foolish we humans can be! We absolve our-selves with all kinds of excuses. We refuse to be ready for the banquet. In time we don't even think about the wedding garment of baptism we received so long ago.

How sad it would be if we were not among the community members attending the banquet. At the beautiful gathering, we could not join joyfully in singing: **"My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy." (Ps 63: 6)** Even sadder would it be if I belonged to the group of "not yet!" The moving voice of Joseph G. Danders in *Praying and Preaching the Sunday Gospel* has this to say about modern people of our day and their "not yet" readiness. We are "acting as if we don't belong together at all, acting as if we have nothing in common, neither God our Father, nor the earth our Mother, acting as if there are walls between us, the blacks and the whites, the young and the old, the rich and the poor, men and women. Discrimination and *apartheid* everywhere."(p. 69)

A question we might ask ourselves during the coming week's reflections is: What will I do this week to ready myself for the eternal banquet?

Quote:

"I don't know at what stage of the story we are now. I do know that the meal is ready." (Joseph G. Danders, p. 69)

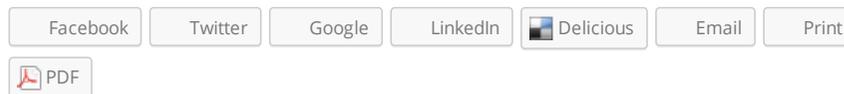
Prayer:

King of heaven and earth, you have prepared the feast. Make me ready. Amen

Listen:

Hear the cries of your poor one, what should I destroy in my life, so that you may restore me to baptismal purity?

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