**Homily** **for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Rev. Francis D. Kim*

Bishop Sullivan announced that this Sunday would be the Vocation Sunday. So, it’s time when we talk about how God calls each of us to follow Him and to serve and witness Him to others, and live with Him forever. God wants us to be happy, and we also want to be happy. But, sometimes, we don’t know what true happiness is.

        When I was a little boy, I really liked rainbows. Whenever I saw one, I always tried to follow it. One summer day, after a passing rain, I saw a beautiful twin rainbows, and I wanted to see and touch it, so I just followed. I thought that I was able to look at it closely and touch it. But, I couldn’t. I approached nearer and nearer, but it just went farther and farther.

        When I kept going to follow it, all of a sudden, it disappeared. I just looked at the sky, but it was not there. It was very strange. Then, I realized that I lost my way. I didn’t know where I was. It was already dusk in the evening. I was weeping and trying to find the way back home. Late night, a policeman found me and took me home. It was a strange experience in my childhood.

        You know? Happiness is just like rainbows; the more we chase them, the more they go farther away. Like everyone, I always wanted to live a happy life. But, I was not able to take the true happiness, like I thought I could take the rainbow. I didn’t know what the true happiness was. But, now, I am very happy. Jesus showed me the way to eternal happiness. Jesus gave me a vision and hope for the future. He led me the way, the truth, and the life. Whenever I follow His calling, I am always very happy.

        This happiness comes from a life lived in love with God and His people. When I found this true happiness, I am so satisfied, full of joy, and there is nothing I shall want. This is great joy and peace that God has promised to us. We are called to show others why being Christian is one of great joy, peace, and significance. This is what it means to have a vocation as a disciple of Jesus. This is my vocation and your vocation.

        My vocation begins when I was 26 years old. My life is really a mystery of faith. Life is always mystery. I became a Catholic at 26. It was the turning point in my life. At that time, I was an engineer. My major was Mechanical Engineering. After studying hard for five years in the university, I got a degree in Engineering Science, and became an engineer. I enjoyed my career. But, God’s calling made me live differently in a special way.
        Reflecting over my past years, I really thank God for calling me to grow in His love and grace. Wherever God calls me, I can go everywhere because I am not going alone, but with Jesus Christ. Now, I understand the true happiness and beauty of life with Jesus Christ.

        In today’s readings, we hear about two poor widows. Both widows showed remarkable trust in God. In the first reading, one widow has only a cup of flour and a little oil. She will bake some bread for herself and her son; then, after they have eaten, they will have no food, and they will die. And, in the Gospel, the other widow has only two coins, and she drops these coins into the poor box. With no more money, she also waits to die.

        Both widows were very poor, and gave from what little each had. But, what they had in abundance was love and faith. In all these cases, a great sacrifice was made. They all trusted in God. The widow who fed Elijah trusted in the Lord God of Israel to provide her future needs, so she and her son would not die of starvation. The poor widow who gave her last coins also trusted in God to provide for her future needs.

        Now, Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem to face His suffering and death, and He points out a poor widow who gives everything she has. In doing so, Jesus foreshadows what is about to happen in His own life. It is all about total trust in God and true sacrifice for God.

        We should share and sacrifice what we have for the poor, the needy, and the neighbor as Jesus did for us. It is not about how much we have, but about our willingness to share what we have. It is our mission and our vocation.

        Please pray for vocations to the priesthood. Pray also please for those of us who have already said yes to God. In this way, we will be the wonderful, happy, joyful servants of God and servants of the holy people of God.