

Saturday – Second Week of Advent - Preparation and Decision

A Story of Preparation and Decision

Anthony de Mello tells the story of a Sufi who was a man of tremendous goodwill.

He worked for the Better World movement. He prayed for strength, stamina, and knowledge to change the world in which he lived.

As he reached middle age, he realized that he had achieved little or nothing. He now prayed that he would have the energy and understanding to change his family, friends, and neighbours.

As he grew old, he realised that there was no change in the violence, bitterness, anger, and jealousy around him. So, he prayed to God that he would have the courage to change himself.

This Sufi man of tremendous goodwill had the talent, he had the desire, but he would not have wasted his ability and talent if he had started with himself.

Reflection

We live in a society with oodles of good people with generous hearts and caring souls. We have the intelligence, the knowledge, and the wisdom to deal with issues that trouble us today: guns and violence, depression and drugs, insecurity, and intolerance, ignoring the weak and taking advantage of the elderly, to name a few.

We seem to be always waiting for someone to take the lead. We are hoping that someone with administrative qualities will “muster the troops.” We are continually in the mood of “Coulda-Woulda-Shoulda.” We have the classical scenario of: If not you, Who? If not now, When? If not here, Where?

We ask those questions because we are often over-whelmed with the issues that face us. This calls us to sit down and divide the problem into its parts. These are more manageable. We find a solution to one part, and it dovetails into the next. Soon we find that others are infected by excitement and enthusiasm. They too want to be part of the action.

As we light this candle of preparation at the end of the week, we have a decision to make. Once we make it, then let's do it.

Questions to Ponder

What is something I know I should change about myself? Have I asked God for the courage to make this change?