

NOVEMBER 6 2024 FATHER HENK VAN MEIJEL

It's a very difficult reading, but it goes right to the core of us Christians. And to follow Christ is giving up everything. It is putting everything at the disposal of God. Doesn't matter if you have \$10,000,000 in the bank, and investments, but everything, or material, or physical, or knowledge, or God-given knowledge, everything. And to give that freely. And in that, God can use that. And God will use us. He will use us each in our individual way, to build the kingdom of God. And but in that, we have to train ourselves of course.

And in the first reading, of Philippians, Saint Paul is talking about, "Do all things without murmuring and arguing." Live a good life, live a clean life. And, of course, these are easy words for me to say to you. I sometimes have to shut up my own murmuring too. I'm a human being, but it is something we continuously have to correct ourselves.

To become that light of Christ in the world. For our families. And our families will judge us by our actions. How was I? And out of that, God can work with us. And but we have to wait for the Lord.

And in our Psalm, of course the refrain was: "The Lord is my light and my salvation." But there's also a line: "Wait for the Lord, be strong, and let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord."

In our vocation, there's much waiting for the Lord. Waiting for the right time. Waiting for things to fall in place. God opens doors, and God closes doors, as we stumble through life. But it is-- if we can be reflective, then God can-- our eyes will be open, how God works in our lives, how God does open doors, and does close doors.

How God will give us opportunities to defend ourselves when we have to. And also God will give us the knowledge to know when to just be quiet. And in that, to become that light of Christ. Of course, right now we are in November.

And actually, by chance, today is also the Jesuits commemorate the departed of the Society of Jesus. Of course November is the month of remembering all those who have gone before us. And yesterday, the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits, commemorated, of course, all the saints, all the saints of the Society of Jesus.

And today, the faithful departed. And just like everywhere else, there's many faithful departed. The unknown saints. The people who worked their life for God, in God's vineyard, and are hardly recognized. And as I was praying with this, I came to mind a Jesuit, Father Fred Power, I lived with only for about two years. And he counted the cost, he had to wait for the Lord to lead him, and not counting the cost. Father Fred entered in 1942 as a Jesuit, and actually, the joke was in those days, if you can walk, and you can breathe, you can enter the Society of Jesus.

Luckily those days are gone because of all the scandals, and we've had plenty of it. But that was the joke. And he entered as a young man, maybe 17 or 18 years old. And he did not see his family anymore, for 13 years, until his ordination. And so, he knew right from the beginning, that the cost would be great. And he was a very shy man, he would not-- to stand like I'm standing here, preaching, would be very difficult for him. But he was a man of deep faith, who also knew how to self-correct himself. And he actually, for 56 years, he was the editor of the Sacred Heart magazine, here in Canada. And I think when I was there still, in his later years, in his 80s, he still was publishing. They still were printing like 10,000 copies a month. But he was shy. But God gave him the opportunity to evangelize with his pen, so to speak.

With his computer, with his typewriter, and he did this for 56 years. Living a quiet life, until he came, actually, here, to Pickering, to our infirmary. But in that, he-- waiting for the Lord. He knew what his vocation was. He knew what his vocation was, and in the scheme of things, he knew that he was nothing. Like everyone else. No one is anything, we are nothing in God's sight-- Or, in human terms. And he

knew that. And so, he just gently worked away, quietly working away, and no doubt, he is with the holy souls in heaven.

The saints which are in heaven, but they're undocumented, are really not really known to anyone. No big names. But he built the kingdom of God in his quiet way. And this is our calling, to just, day-by-day, to work ahead, and to do our thing where God has called us.

Not counting the cost, but there is of course a price to be paid. We all pay a price, in one way or another. And I often said, I entered religious life at age 50, and I had a business, I had investments, a house and all of that, and that's all gone. If I would have stayed where I was I would have had an easier life than I have today. But I know I'm in the right place.

It's not about looking for an easy life, in struggles we also can have much joy. And how God also brings me-- helps me to get along during the day, as I face many struggles myself. And this is the mystery of God. Something to emulate. And, of course, Father Fred Power, he was a great example in his quiet manner, for me, as I met him. One of the holy souls. Amen.