

## Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

My beloved brothers and sisters, every morning, in the early hours of the morning as I am unlocking the Church, I offer myself and all that I am and do, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The reason that I do this, is because every single good act, even the smallest of kindnesses becomes infinitely amplified through Her Heart, to the Heart of Her Son! Jesus tells us today, that the slightest or the mightiest good deed done for Him and for His Kingdom, will not go unrewarded, even something so simple as giving a glass of water to someone who is thirsty. What is the simple message of Jesus? It is very simple, our King and our God loves us so very much, that He infinitely lavishes His blessings upon everyone who lets Him; and therefore, we who belong to Him need to do the same!

On the other hand, many times, like the Apostle John in this Gospel, we can be spiritual tightwads, who want to hoard the infinite Graces that Jesus pours out upon us. Sometimes, we fail to see with the eyes of faith, and look through the lenses of the failed and broken world and society in which we live! I was powerfully struck the other evening in the Kavanaugh hearing, with the remark of his youngest daughter to all of the terrible things that were being said about him: "Daddy, we ought to pray for her!" That is the Spirit of Jesus! Out of the mouths of babes comes Wisdom, whatever you may think about Kavanaugh or the hearings!

Sometimes, our attitudes towards others can be described in the Spanish word: Selouso. It means: jealousy which is mean spirited, and by it, we limit the Goodness that our Good God is trying to do, as if the kindness of a non-Christian was any less kind than the kindness of a Christian. An example of this, is that I have often found a much greater spirit of cooperation amongst our Mormon neighbors than I have in other denominations!

This exchange between St. John and the Lord Jesus gives a glimpse into the very heart of our God. God is pure heart, pure goodness and pure generosity. There is no meanness or restricted mercy in God. In the Middle Ages, this goodness was expressed in the Latin Phrase: ***Bonum diffisivum est sui***. It means: that goodness

naturally spreads its goodness to others, like the sun shines upon the good and the bad, because the nature of the sun is to shine! The nature of our God is to shine His goodness into our lives, spreading His goodness throughout humanity, surrounding us with His love, filling our lives with His mercy, grace and virtue. Our work, is to allow the work of God, His goodness to work within our lives and to become transparent to it, like a lantern is transparent to the light within it, shedding its light to everyone!