

Homily
2/27/10

As I researched the meaning of the topic: Hallowed be thy Name and Thy Kingdom Come, I became over whelmed by how much God loves us and dwells within us.

When Jesus said “Keep Holy thy Name”, he wasn’t speaking about our name. Jesus was drawing attention to the holiness of the Father.

Jesus was reminding us of the second commandment “You shall not take the Name of the Lord Your God in Vain”.

Whose God? Our God because God was holy, before the beginning of creation.

His holiness comes to us through Jesus life, death and his resurrection. We receive the grace to be holy through the sacraments. (Baptism gave sanctifying grace)

Though this sanctifying grace we experience his love for us. It is the love we have for the Father that we give him honor, glory and praise his name.

This love we have received from Him through sanctifying grace helps us to refrain from using his name in vain, to swear at or to curse another person.

An example to keep his name holy: At the beginning of this celebration, we blessed our self in his name; Father used his name “The Lord be with you.” As we pray this mass in his name we become a holy people.

We are sanctified, made holy, set apart to build up the kingdom of God.

Thy kingdom come:

In the beginning Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God in his Kingdom. We know the story how they sinned and lost their relationship with God.

God made a promise that one day he would restore his kingdom. We know the story of the flood and the new beginning with Noah and his wife, the family of the domestic church.

God called Abraham to leave his home land and He would make him a great nation.(Kingdom) He said to Abraham “I am God Almighty” walk before me and be blameless, and I will make a Covenant between you and me.

You will be the Father of many nations.(Kingdoms) You will be a Holy Nation a people set apart. I will be your God (King) and you will be my people. (Kingdom)

Through Abraham God begins to form His kingdom on earth.

At the burning bush God reveals His name to Moses “I Am Who Am” and chooses Moses to lead his people out of Egypt to the promise land. (Kingdom) God will guide the people through Moses through the Prophets.

Then elders of Israel came to Samuel and said “Give us a king to govern us” as other people have, they were rejecting God as their King. (1 Samuel 8: 4-10)

Through these earthly Kings God keeps his promise through his son, Jesus.

In this petition, we pray that the kingdom promised to us by God will come. The kingdom is already present in Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

God's kingdom is a kingdom of love, justice and mercy; where sins are forgiven, the sick are made whole, enemies are reconciled, captives are freed and the needs of the poor are met.

In all these things and more the ultimate kingdom is Jesus Christ and all he means for us.

But in another sense, it is not yet here since Christ's final transformation of individuals, society and cultures has not yet happened in its fullness.

Even now, in the Church, Christ rules in all his glory, though we lack the vision to see such glory in its fullness. We walk by faith for now; but later, God willing, we will walk by sight.

When we pray "Thy kingdom come", we ask for an ever increasing manifestation of the glory of Jesus' real presence.

What must we do to enter the kingdom?

1. Have faith in Jesus Christ being the true Son of the Father.
2. Have a firm belief in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.
3. Must love the Lord our God with our whole heart, mind and soul and our neighbor as myself.
4. We must place him 1st in our life.
5. Live in a community of love so we can experience Christ as a community here so we won't be a stranger in heaven.

The kingdom is in our midst: in the past in the Incarnation. In the present in the Eucharist and it will come to us in the fullness in the future in the unveiling of divine glory at Christ's second coming.

Are we ready to meet him?