

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last Sunday, in the second reading (1st Corinthians 12: 12-30) St Paul spoke of the wonderful gifts given to the first Christians in Corinth for the good of the church.

Today he gives us his vision of unity in Christ.

We form a Body with Christ as the Head and we are the members. We are the body of Christ--the Church—which is comprised of many unique parts.

To drive this idea home, St Paul compares the Church to a human body.

“As the body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.”

Our human body has many and various parts/ members but each member is there for the good of the whole body.

There is no unimportant part of the body. Both the weaker and stronger parts are needed.

The point is St Paul urges us to appreciate and be grateful to God for the wonderful gifts he has given us. Although each of us is different we are to unite to build and support the church, our community and one another.

What we should know is that every member of the Church is important. Each one of us is an essential member of the Church.

No matter how big, honorable or small, modest our contribution is each one of us is a necessary member of the Church.

Let us know that we have a role to serve that no one else can do.

In the first reading, we see Ezra the priest leading the Jewish people after their return from Babylonian exile to renew their covenant with God and thus dedicate themselves to God’s service.

Let us also in today’s liturgy renew our commitment to serve God.

Let us remember that our recognition of what God is doing for us and gratitude are the attitudes that will maintain us in our service to God and mankind.

Jesus, in the Gospel reading, announces his vocation and mission in his hometown.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim, a year acceptable to the Lord.”

I will say Jesus is anointed to teach by doing/serving, that is, by freeing people, by giving sight and establishing an atmosphere pleasing to God.

In the light of what St Paul tells us in the second reading I will say the Gospel also tells us that if we are Christians, being the body of Christ, serving the Church and one another, especially the less privileged is not an option but part and parcel of our life.