

Friday, July 2, 2021

Friday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*First Friday of the Month*

“I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

I remember receiving a Bible from the Catholic chaplain at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, my first assignment after basic training and tech school. What I remember best were two bookmarkers he gave me as well, a green one with a “hula” dancer and a red one with a devil. The cards had two words: “Sinner’s club”.

The Church is a “sinner’s club” because Jesus came to call sinners. The beauty of the Church is that Jesus continues to call sinners and transform them, bringing those caught in the vice-grip of sin – also known as vices – into a life of virtue. Like Matthew, some sinners find it very difficult to leave a life of sin, an addicted way of life. Some give up and continue living in sin to the point that the sense of sin is even lost. The difference with Matthew is that he experienced what the Psalm says today: “Visit me with your saving help, that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, rejoice in the joy of your people, and glory with your inheritance.” Jesus does not leave us in our sins but forgives the repentant sinner and gives liberating grace to lead a new life. The Psalm once again expresses this very well: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Who can tell the mighty deeds of the Lord, or proclaim his praises? Blessed are they who observe what is right, who do what is just. Remember me, O Lord, as you favor your people.” We become transformed sinners, former slaves of sin who always remember where God called us from – like Matthew – and grateful for the freedom to live as a child of God.

God Love You!

*Fr. Jim Starasovich*

