

Wisdom to be prepared. 32A 11-8-20

This week I travelled to our diocesan offices for a meeting of Diocesan Board that I belong to. I had the option to participate by zoom, but I chose the in-person format instead. I began to question the wisdom of that choice as I walked into the building. I was greeted by three other board members chatting next to one another. Only one of the three was wearing a mask. I quickly asked: where are your masks? One member spoke up immediately, Oh I don't need to wear a mask. I silently walked away. He was a brother priest who was the pastor of a parish with a school.

I recalled that moment in light of the current uptick in the Covid. I am asking in my prayer for Wisdom, the wisdom to be patient with others and with myself as we live in the midst of this life changing and life-threatening virus. I ask for the wisdom to make wise choices, to remain faithful as God's plans for us continue to unfold.

The Church defines wisdom as a spiritual gift which enables the one who possesses it, to know the purpose and plan of God. We are given this wisdom as a gift of the Holy Spirit. when we are confirmed. But we have to activate it by our daily choices.

Our first reading from the Book of Wisdom describes three benefits to those who seek to activate this gift of wisdom.

First: The sacred writer tells us that Wisdom] is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her. Simply put, wisdom is not difficult to obtain.

If we sincerely seek wisdom, we will recognize it and gain it he tells us.

Second: The wisdom writer says: *Taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence.*

Just thinking about wisdom will change us. It will not only enlighten us, but perfect us in our ability to make good choices and take right actions that are consistent with God's purpose and plan for us.

Third: He says: "whoever for wisdom's sake keeps vigil, shall quickly be free from care" Free from care means free from worry.

The Book of Wisdom tells us that if we consistently seek God's wisdom, we will find hope in what we learn. This hope allows us to be free from worry, because we learn to trust that our loving God is with us, no matter what the future holds, and he waits to welcome us into his Kingdom at the end of our lives.

The Gospel parable of the wise and foolish virgins provides an important lesson about the importance of making wise choices each and every day.

The oil represents these choices – if we live our lives consistently seeking wisdom because we believe in Christ and seek to grow in love for him, it transforms us. We become more like Christ. As we imitate his care and compassion for others, especially the most vulnerable, our lives will overflow with the oil of our loving deeds and choices.

Our oil will not run out. We will be prepared. We will have enough to keep our lamps lit and be ready to greet the Lord whenever he calls us home.

In this uncertain and ever-changing world in which we live, and in the midst of so much that we cannot control, one thing is certain and ought to fill us with relief, peace, and consolation: Christ will come again! And if we allow the wisdom from God, to guide our daily decisions we will be ready when we hear the words: Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!

Gospel Challenge: Reflect on one or two ways you see God's plan and purpose guiding your decisions in the midst of this pandemic? Are you making wise choices?