

Father Rudy's Reflections

The Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12, 2023

### Wait with Vigilance

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

All human beings dream, and these images as we sleep may be entertaining, disconnected, or disturbing depending on the images the mind creates. Have you ever had a disturbing, lucid dream about the failure to act, such as missing an important date or being unprepared for an event? If you experienced one of these nightmares, you know the tremendous feeling of anxiety that overcame you as you awakened. How could you make such a mistake! Yes, we humans tend to think that we are ready for anything, right? Yet, our inner voice lets us know we truly are not. Can this same scenario be applied to our Christian faith? Are we always at the ready—vigilant and constant as to what is to come?

On this Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, as we begin to conclude our liturgical year in a few weeks, we are discussing a parable today about the end times in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus described the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, five who are wise and five who are foolish, in a private moment with his disciples on the Mount of Olives. This parable illustrates the coming of the bridegroom, Jesus Christ, to the wedding banquet (the Kingdom of Heaven) and the need for us to live in a manner that anticipates his return. On his arrival, we should always maintain enough oil for our lamps to light the way. And the oil that fuels our lamp is that of our faith going out into the world; the light given to us at baptism and that continues to live in the light of the cross in our lives. To live in such vigilance means we must do all things to enhance our faith and prepare for his coming, "no matter the day nor the hour."

As Christians, many of us are prepared for and anticipate Christ coming by how we live and what we do on a daily basis. For example, we are thoughtful in our relationships with others; we practice good works, such as the spiritual and corporal works of mercy; we make prayer a constant in our lives; and we are life learners in seeking to understand our faith more fully. We realize all things must come to an end and that someday each of us will die; we recognize the final thoughts of the Hail Mary, "Now and at the hour of our death. Amen." All the good works we accomplish here on earth will help us gain entrance to the messianic banquet of heaven. Let us have our lamps always filled to light the way.

*"If we love enough, we are going to light a fire in the hearts of others. And it is love that will burn out the sins and hatreds that sadden us. It is love that will make us want to do great things for each other. No sacrifice and no suffering will then seem too much."*—Dorothy Day, Catholic convert and reformer

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Rudy