



Parish of the Holy Spirit

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26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Seeing God in Others

The Gospel for today gives us the impression that the disciples were envious. When they saw someone using Jesus' name to expel demons, they tried to stop him because he wasn't a disciple. In other words, they would like to keep their monopoly of association with Jesus. They focused on the difference between that person and themselves. Because they were disciples, only they had the right to preach. He wasn't a disciple; therefore, he had no right to use the name of Jesus when he tried to heal people.

Jesus, however told the disciples, "...do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us". (Mk. 9:39-40)

Many of us Christian lament that God no longer has a place in our world today. Maybe we are looking in the wrong places. If we looked at beyond those who belong to our group, it might surprise us to see that God is as active in our world today as God has always been. God may be working with those we regard as the wrong people, and in places we deem to be the wrong places.

We need to heed what Jesus said to His Disciples, especially to us who may often think that the Church is a place only for people who are better than the rest, rather than for everyone who wants to be better than they are. The message is for us who would like to believe that the Church is a museum of saints reserved only for some and not a hospital of sinners open to all. Further, the message of Jesus is for you and me who discriminate and look down on others because they are not in our same level, class, or status.

My dear people of God, all of us are called to be God's disciples. **Discipleship** is not just membership. For me discipleship is doing good things and continuing the good works of Jesus. We don't need to belong to a certain group before we can do something good to others right? Doing good things has no limit, has no boundaries. It is not exclusive to a certain person or to a certain group. No one has the monopoly of doing good.

Let us do good things in the name of Jesus!!!

Fr. Marlon

