

Day 207 – Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Thanksgiving is over and for some it will mean turkey sandwiches and turkey salad for the next week. Others will need to waddle to the walking paths and shed the pounds they gained. Others will fondly remember the new memories and the difficulty in saying goodbye to family.

But is this what Thanksgiving is all about? Sometimes the reason why we are celebrating can get lost in the celebration itself. Although we call family together, we cook a huge turkey and mountains of potatoes, we can never forget the real reason for Thanksgiving. The reason we celebrate Thanksgiving is an event that reminds us of the harvest. All the garden produce and all the crops. But this itself is an extension of giving thanks to God for all that he has given us. We may plant the seeds, but it is God that makes them grow. It is God that provides the sun and it is God that provides the rain.

In a sense, every day is Thanksgiving...which is why I love celebrating the Eucharist. Eucharist comes from the Greek word—Eucharistia—which means to give thanks. So whenever we celebrate, or participate, in the Eucharist, we are giving thanks to God for all that he has given us. Let us never forget to give him thanks.

Perhaps it is time for a story.

NARADA

Narada the Hindu sage was on a pilgrimage to the temple of Lord Vishnu. He was given hospitality one night in the hut of a childless couple. Before he set out again the man said to Narada, “You are going to worship Vishnu. Tell him to give me a child. ”

Narada said to the Lord, “Be merciful to that man and give him a child.” The Lord replied, with an air of finality, “It is not in the destiny of that man to have children.” So Narada performed his devotions and went back home.

Five years later he was on pilgrimage again and was again given shelter by the hospitable couple- This time two little children were playing at the door of the hut.

“Whose children are these? ” said Narada. “Mine,” said the man.

Narada was intrigued. The man went on, “After you left us, five years ago, a holy man came to our village. We put him up for the night and next day, before he departed, he blessed my wife and me... and these are the fruits of his blessing. ”

When Narada got to the temple next day, he shouted front the forecourt, “Did you not tell me it was not in the destiny of that man to have children? He has two! ”

The Lord laughed aloud when he heard this. “That must be the doing of a saint,” he said. “Saints have the power to change destiny/”

Let us all strive to be saints who given thanks to God.

In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley

Sincerely,
Fr. Jim Kaptein