

Small Groups

Discussion Questions for August 9, 2015 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.” (Eph. 4:30 – 5:2)

Did you ever see the Jimmy Stewart movie, **Harvey**? In this movie, Elwood P. Dowd, Stewart’s character, believes that he has a 6 foot tall rabbit named Harvey with him. Elwood’s a very kind and pleasant person, although his socialite sister wants him committed to an asylum. In one scene, he tells someone the following:

Years ago my mother used to say to me, she'd say, "In this world, Elwood, you must be" - she always called me Elwood - "In this world, Elwood, you must be oh so smart or oh so pleasant." Well, for years I was smart. I recommend pleasant. You may quote me.

In a fictional way, Elwood embodies what St. Paul is telling us. He doesn’t hold grudges; he welcomes everyone into his home. His life is simpler, happier, and everyone around him (eventually his sister, too) is better off by him having been in their lives. Can we be convicted of this?

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus emphasizes that he is the bread of life. He is our nourishment. He provides for us in all ways. Discuss ways – physically and spiritually - that you know Jesus has provided.
2. For some of us, the toughest sins to avoid involve our tongues. Discuss methods you have used to avoid gossip, calumny and detraction.
3. St Paul asks a lot of us when he says to “be imitators of God as Christ loved us”. But he adds that this is a “fragrant aroma” to God. How can we truly “sacrifice” our wants and needs this week?
4. Discuss the Daily Specials and how you have either incorporated some of them recently or avoided the “Removed Items” on the list.

Closing Prayer

Ever-loving Father, creator of all, you hold us in existence. Without your constant love and care, we would dissolve into nothingness – from which you brought us. Help us to feel your presence every moment of our lives. Help us to know that we are loved by you, that you want us to love others in the same way, and most especially, guide us in loving others. You know we fail, you know we settle into complacency, you know we are too easily tempted to seek our own glory instead of yours. It is only in praising you and loving you that we find our purpose and peace. We ask all of this in Jesus’s Holy Name. Amen.

“Do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord.” (Eph 5:15 - 20)