

Reflections While Walking

October 1, 2021

Baptismal Choices



Jesus said, “It was not you who chose Me, but I who chose you...” (John 15:16). This was spoken to His apostles at the Last Supper discourse and there is, I think, a tendency to believe that it refers only to those seeking conversion to the faith or discerning entering religious life. For example, we refer to someone choosing to enter religious life as answering God’s call; as being chosen by God. There is a certain naivete associated with that kind of thinking. In a sense it eliminates or at the least minimizes the possibility of God choosing people other than the apostles for tasks to further His kingdom on earth. The Apostles had been chosen for specific tasks. They were chosen to continue Jesus’ work of preaching, healing, and calling people to repentance, and to do it in Jesus’ image.

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, we were chosen to be among the baptized. The Catholic baptismal rite says that we are members of Christ and is very specific as to how this membership with Christ is to be manifested. The rite declares that we are members in Christ as priest, prophet and king. Just as the apostles were chosen for tasks to further God’s earthly kingdom in baptism, we are chosen to fulfill certain roles to enable us to continue the work begun by the apostles.

Fulfilling our priestly responsibility means as priests we are chosen to be holy; not necessarily that we should pursue the ordained priesthood. As holy and priestly people we are chosen to pray fervently and to worship frequently. As prophets we are chosen to speak God’s truths as revealed by sacred scripture and taught by the Church and not succumb to the distorted truths so prevalent in today’s culture. Kings are leaders and providers for their people. Therefore, in our kingly role we are asked to lead people to Christ and when able to provide for those in our society less fortunate than ourselves.

Taking seriously our baptismal role as priest, prophet and king we will further advance God’s earthly kingdom and continue the work begun by the apostles centuries ago.