



THE JANUARY 2010 “CHIMES” NEWSLETTER

SAINT ALBAN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1810 ELM STREET

El Paso, TX 79930—Phone: 915-565-27

Website: www.saintalban.org

Treasure

Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. (Matthew 19:21-22)

There once was a little boy who was eagerly looking forward to his birthday gift from his favorite uncle, who always had a knack for picking out just the right toy. This year, however, the uncle decided his nephew was old enough to start receiving clothing, and sent him a sweater. At his mother's prompting, the little boy obediently sat down and wrote his thank you note: "Dear Uncle George: Thank you for the sweater. It is what I've always wanted - but not very much. Love. Jimmy."

Such an honest answer is refreshing, but even more revealing of our attempt to live the Christian life. We want Christ to be our savior and Lord. We want to follow him and leave all our other attachments and compulsions behind - but not very much! God created us with the power of choice - especially our choice of "Me" or "God." God also created a desire for himself deep within us that, although dormant in many, is still more powerful than any other attraction. If we choose to use God's help, to uncork that desire, then we can rejoice and sing, "This is what I've always wanted...very much!"

A wealthy woman once felt that God was calling her to the religious life. She thought that she would be able to give up everything in order to follow Christ, with one exception. She had a garden which was very important to her. It was a place for her to be alone, to be at peace with herself, and to find refreshment. She was unwilling and unable to give up the key to her secret garden. Her privacy was too precious to share even with God. What a powerful symbol that is for us! Each of us has a secret garden and we are often unwilling to give up the key to Jesus and let Him in. We want Him to keep his distance at times. We find it so hard to learn that if we let him into every space and place in our life, He will give it all back to us...and then some!

Mother Teresa of Calcutta echoed St. Teresa of Avila when she said, "God has only our hands with which to bless the world". She spoke of our need to reach out to the poor and destitute around us. But we are also in need of blessing, a blessing we can only find by taking our hands down to hide our faces to block out Christ. When we turn loose and give up our need for privacy, we break the fear of Adam and Eve who hid their shame and nakedness from God in their Garden of Eden. We too are ashamed, full of fear of being found out, yet when we reach out to take Christ's hands we will find our own blessing. all we need do is to come out from hiding.

We don't have to be the rich, young ruler to be faced with the power of possession. Sometimes what we want to keep just for ourselves is just a secret little garden to keep away from God. Yet he asks for our total and complete worship for our sakes not His. Surely he knows what is best. Jesus said, that the ones who seek to save their own lives, possessions, and precious things...will surely lose it all. Yet those who will lose their lives and give up it all up to Him, will surely find all that matters...a life of such beauty and abundance that nothing in this world can compare with it. He said so, "I have come to bring you life and to bring it more abundantly".



OUR NEWSLETTER IS ALWAYS ONLINE

EACH WEDNESDAY @ NOON, MASS IN THE LADY CHAPEL

EACH SUNDAY @ 9 A.M. ADULT CLASS IN THE LADY CHAPEL

JAN 2—SATURDAY MEN'S COFFEE @ 9 am

JAN 3 — FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS, 8 & 10.30 Mass

JAN 9 – SATURDAY - VESTRY @ 9.30 a.m.

JAN 10– FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, 8 & 10.30 Mass

The Baptism of our Lord

JAN 17 - SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 8 & 10.30 Mass

JAN 24 – THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, 8 & 10.30 Mass

JAN 31 – FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, ONE MASS @ 10.30 A.M.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND POT LUCK LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

HYMN FOR THE EPIPHANY SEASON

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,

manifested by the star to the sages from afar;

Branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem;

anthems be to thee address, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;

and at Cana, wedding guest, in thy Godhead manifest;

manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;

anthems be to thee address, God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;

manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;

manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill;

anthems be to thee address, God in man made manifest.

Manifest on mountain height, shining in resplendent light,
where disciples filled with awe thy transfigured glory saw.
When from thence thou leddest them steadfast to Jerusalem,
cross and Easter day attest God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, mirrored in thy holy word;
may we imitate thee now, and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we like to thee may be at thy great epiphany;
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885) Stanza Four by F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984).