

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Week Ordinary Time  
October 21, 2014  
St. Agnes Church

As I prepare couples for marriage  
I always ask “what does it mean to be faithful?  
How will you be faithful in this marriage?”  
Most answers entail something like this:  
“I will remain true to my spouse  
physically, emotionally, spiritually.  
I will not do these things”  
and then harmful behaviors are listed.  
I try to steer the couple to a simple definition of sorts:  
“faithfulness is a matter of pursuing the good of the relationship.”

Jesus today talks about what it means to be a faithful servant  
and assures his disciples that the reward for being faithful  
is a share in the banquet of heaven.  
While on this earth, a faithful servant pursues a good relationship,  
a right relationship with Jesus Christ.  
And since the living presence of the risen Christ is encountered  
in the sacrament of his body and blood,  
in the word of Scriptures  
and in the community of believers,  
the faithful servant pursues a good relationship, a right relationship with Christ  
in and through these three realities.  
The faithful servant knows and believes  
that the fullness of a life in Christ is possible  
only if goodness is pursued, promoted, nurtured  
in and through Sacrament, Word, and Community.

In and through faithfulness bonding occurs, personal connection...  
contact, adhesion, cohesion.  
The faithful servant assumes responsibility for finding ways of increasing such bonding.  
I'm not just talking about “closeness”.  
I can put the bible under my pillow, I can stand next to a person during Mass,  
but it doesn't mean I'm connected to either.

Think of chemistry. Molecules bond together when they share electrons.  
The more electrons they share the stronger the bond.  
Christian bonding occurs when faith is shared,  
when I willingly give over to you what I have, what has been given to me,  
for you to hold on to, to use, and enjoy.  
It also entails trust, trust that this connection, this sharing,  
will not be withdrawn when difficulties occur.

“B1.” I'm not playing bingo. I encourage you to “be one”...be a faithful servant.  
In and through your way of acting make it possible for others to do the same.  
Always remember, believe, and hope:  
faithfulness is a mission for fulfilling God's plan.