

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 16, Year A

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Lessons;

Exodus 1, 8-2:1

Psalm 124

Romans 12; 1-8

Matthew 16; 13-20

Jesus's Church

By Fr. Willie Font

“You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God”

In the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A. My life as a Christian.

- Why are you coming to Church every Sunday?
- How long you (we) have been Christians or visiting Church?
- How many times did you feel discouraged by the number of people who attended the Holy Eucharist?
- How many times have you been nostalgic for that beautiful time in Saint John when everything was perfect? Even Saint John looked very close to God's Kingdom.
- How times are you been hopeless?
- Will it be Church in the future?

B. My own experience. That you want to be a Priest. Are you outside your mind? Willie, the church will disappear. That prediction has happened to me twice.

- 1980
- 2019

In other words, Jesus's prediction and warning to his disciples about the persecution, people giving up or looking for the end of his community, is accurate. According to the haters, we should not have a church. The Church has been criticized from the beginning, and its failure has often been predicted.

From the beginning, Church has struggled. Every time that happens, people predict the end of the Church.

However, still today, we have Church. We are here today, celebrating and believing. Why?

#### C. Today's Gospel Perspective:

I believe the question is not when the Church will finally disappear. Instead, the question should be why we still have Church. We have Church for three reasons: in Peter's confession, in Jesus's revelation of the divine power behind Peter's (OUR) faith, and in Jesus's promises to his Church.

- You are the "SON OF THE LIVING GOD"
- In Peter, we have received the secret power of the Highest."
- And finally, in Peter, we, the authority over any other power".

That is why we still have Church: In the confession and revelation of the Living Son of God.

That is why we should fight for Justice, especially against poverty and Death Penalty.

That is why we should fight for diversity and against racism.

WE HAVE THE POWER OF THE LIVING SON OF GOD. That is why Church always will exist. There is no other Kingdom or Gospel.

#### D. Altar

- This altar represents the authority and Dominion of the Son of the Living God over the Universe.
- And Participating in it confirms our relationship with Him and gives us the authority, as his disciples, to talk on His behalf.
- Therefore, Let the world know He is the Living God's Son.