

Fr. Glenn's Pen

Rejoice, I say it again, Rejoice. This weekend we celebrate what is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is simply the Latin word for "rejoice". Zephaniah enjoins Israel to exult with all their hearts, the Lord is in their midst. This is the week we light the "rose" colored candle, not to be confused with the color pink. Rose is the color that symbolizes anticipatory Joy, Advent is more than half over and Christmas is near. During Lent we celebrate Laudete Sunday, the fourth week of Lent for the same reason, the season is more than half completed. What are we anticipating, why such joy? We remember that God chose, in the fullness of time, to enter our world as a child and save us. This salvation culminates with Jesus, God Himself, sacrificing Himself on the cross to demonstrate the depth of His love for us. Our faith reveals to us that this is the truth. If we believe it, it radically transforms our life and the way we live it.

It is easy to be filled with anxiety and fear because of all the tensions in our world. But love casts out all fear. God will give us a peace that surpasses all understanding if we truly long for it. Many modern thinkers have fallen prey to philosophies that believe that truth is unknowable, all our own ideas are what matters. If our conscience has been malformed and accepts a certain behavior, that it is all good. But if we choose poorly it will lead to death and unhappiness. We will have no joy. When we encounter the truth, it is accompanied by joy.

Are we as open as those following John the Baptist, can we cry out as well, "What should we do?" His response was simple and can be summarized by share what you have, act with integrity, do the right thing. Integrity is simply doing the right thing when no one is watching. John could have drawn people to himself, but he pointed them to Christ, may we always do the same! Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus Come!