

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 17, 2021

I'd like to spend a few moments on the Letter to the Hebrews. First, many scripture scholars believe it is not a letter from Paul, but rather a preaching. The author may be one of the early Fathers of the Christian Community, perhaps written at the end of the First Century. So, we have newly converted Christians from the Jewish community, probably of Jerusalem. Those first years of the new Community were fraught with persecution and martyrdom. So, like the Book of Revelations, the writers were attempting to give encouragement and comfort to these early Christians. But we have more here: the writer encourages the reader to "Hold Fast" to their confession of Faith and Hope, AND moreover to move forward: "to approach the throne of Grace". The new faithful are to continue the journey toward GOD, to understand that it is a **sacrificial journey**. Yet they can be confident to receive mercy and grace in time of need.

We too, like these readers in the first century Christianly, we must move forward with confidence in God/Christ. We too can be confident in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who won for us a new covenant assuring **US** of mercy and grace in our times of need.

"Be not afraid"