

Twenty-first in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2020

I just want to say a few words about the Gospel today.

I'm sure you have heard this passage before,

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

And Simon Peter replies: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

The Christ, in Hebrew “The Anointed One”.

The Christ, the Resurrected One, the Messiah, our Savior. Jesus, the Christ. The “Jesus of History” was the son of Mary, the young man raised in Nazareth, believed himself to be beloved of God, his Father. Jesus established a following of believers. He was a teacher, a Rabbi, a Holy Man. And through his teachings and healings, he convinced people that they were worthwhile, and loved by God.

In his three years of ministry, Jesus became the “Jesus of Mystery”. Who was this man who taught, and healed and challenged the systemic imbalances of his time? Who was this man? In today's Gospel we have Peter's statement: You are the Christ! You are our HOPE.

Hope, what is that?

I want to read a quote by Vaclav Havel. He was the first President of the Czech Republic, served as Prime Minister from February 1993-2003.

“The kind of hope I often think about ...I understand above all is a state of mind, not a state of the world...It is an orientation of the spirit,
An orientation of the heart; it transcends the world that is immediately experienced...
Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously headed for early success.

But, rather, Hope is an ability to work for something **because it is good,**
not just because it stands a chance to succeed.

The more unpropitious [Def. unfavorable, hopeless] the situation in which we demonstrate hope, the deeper that hope is... Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.”

Jesus, the Christ, is our HOPE... He brings us an “orientation of the Spirit...an orientation of the Heart. The Christ the anointed One now anoints US with GOODNESS, With HOPE

May we orient our hearts, our spirits, to live in hope.