



Reflection from Ben Babaran

In today's readings, St. Paul tells us who we are as the body of Christ while Luke tells us of our mission as the body of Christ.

The parish of St. James, a very diverse community, is Christ's body and we are individually parts of it. We are one body, all of us members of Christ. We have different functions, but all of us are important! Thus, no one can say to another "I have no need of you" (1 Cor. 12:21). On the contrary, Paul stresses how important and indispensable the weaker parts are saying "Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary" (1 Cor. 12:22). This is our identity! We are the Body of Christ! I am proud to be a part of it!

The Gospel of Luke declares what we are to do. We hear Jesus proclaiming his mission statement by reading the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free" (Lk. 4:18). This statement is Christ's program and having been anointed in Baptism, we share in this mission as the body of Christ!

The last verse of today's Gospel is our best news amidst all the problems we face these days: "Today, this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." The one line homily of Jesus gives us hope. It also gives us a very big responsibility as the Body of Christ. However, it assures us that Christ is working in and with us in our daunting task of being the sign of God's presence in the world. St. James is challenged to use her diversity to be a symbol of unity in a country where there is so much division. We are asked to lend a hand to those affected by Covid-19, provide warmth to those who are cold and help those whose utilities are turned off and are in danger of being evicted. Our work in Midtown Kansas City continues. May we all fervently work on making the Kingdom of God present here and now!

*~ Peace,
Ben*