



Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

We seem to spend a lot of our time waiting. We long for things to get better, or we dread the thought of things getting worse. Whether we are an optimist or a pessimist, our attention is often on the future.

In the gospel for this Sunday, Jesus sounds like he is endorsing this kind of attention with his followers. He talks about servants looking forward to their master's return at some point. He talks about knowing when a thief might break in. But the point is not really about knowing or predicting or creating the future. The point is about being ready now, in the present. In that sense, the future really has nothing to do with treating the "menservants and maidservants" well. One can only do that in the present. Jesus was saying "Don't wait! Love now!"

Sometimes our focus on the future gets in the way of our living well now. Fear of making a mistake is often paralyzing to us. We know the philosophy of "playing it safe." This is often a way of not taking the risks involved in doing what is most just, respectful, compassionate, or loving. We want to control how the future turns out, so we often base our actions on the illusion of that control, rather than basing our actions on what is most loving at the moment.

Living in the "now" (rather than the future) requires trust and faith that God will be lovingly involved in what happens from here on. No one can prove that to us. That is why it's called faith. But we can look at the past and see that God has gotten us to this point somehow, and will probably get us into the future somehow also. That is why we read the scriptures – to remind ourselves of how God has been present to us in the past, and to trust he will continue that love into the future.

So as the Star Trek theme suggests, let us "Boldly go where no one has gone before," trusting that God is already there in our future, just as God is present now, and was present from the very beginning.

Peace,
Fr. Garry