



Reflection from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

Anybody hear about the decisions handed down by the Supreme Court in the past couple of weeks? Maybe it would be simpler to ask who did not hear about at least some of those recently decided cases....

Among other Supreme Court cases, there were seven that were most carefully watched because of the enormous impact these decisions will have on countless lives now and for years to come. A lot is at stake here!

The major decisions handed down by the Court this June dealt with voting rights and the role of states, affirmative action in college admissions, student loans, LGBTQ rights, and employer accommodation of religious rights of employees.

Now, you and I surely have some definite points of view on these issues. We may or may not agree with the decisions of the high court. (Not all the Justices agree with the decisions handed down, either; thus “dissenting opinions” are written!)

The judgments of the US Supreme Court are efforts to address issues of society in equitable ways in line with the Constitution of the United States. The Court may “get it right” in some cases and may “miss the mark” in others. So, how do we uphold the core values addressed in these cases, especially when individual or corporate interests may be pushing in opposite directions?

Jesus gives us some interesting [startling?] guidance in today’s gospel. “Father...what you have hidden from the learned and the clever you have revealed to the merest children.”

Jesus challenges us to consider the values decided by the Court from the uncomplicated perspective of a child! Neither we nor anyone among us “has all the answers.” We must accept that reality and keep our minds open to the truth no matter where we find it. When we are tempted to think that only we have all the answers, we will find that leads to burdens we cannot bear... Jesus in today’s gospel brings us this message: “when you are weary and find life burdensome...Come to me and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart.”

Yes, the US Supreme Court may have recently handed down decisions on many important matters. It is now up to us to weigh those decisions and their impact. We can do that with integrity and peace of heart if we do it with the heart of Jesus who knows the mind of God: “Learn from me, for “I am gentle and humble of heart.” Following this way of gentleness and humility each of us can be agents for dialog, transformation and increased harmony in our communities. The issues presented to the Supreme Court will get addressed in the community with wise discernment and vigor.

Peace,
Deacon Ross