



Reflection from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

If you haven't found enough to think about, pray about or weigh-in on during the past couple of weeks, well, you haven't been paying attention....

The national news has brought us blow-by-blow reporting on the downfall of Kevin McCarthy as speaker of the House of Representatives and the scramble to find a replacement.

Thursday the report of a Russian missile strike on a small Ukrainian town - killing more than 50 civilians, young (6 years) and older – brought another shock in this unrelenting war.

Also on Thursday President Joe Biden announced the resumption of construction of the “border wall” that was begun by former President Donald Trump, while no action has emerged in Congress to address immigration reform.

In the U.S. West, healthcare workers (!) of Kaiser-Permanente went on strike... and elsewhere the United Auto Workers remain on strike for weeks

All the while, in Rome Pope Francis, cardinals, bishops, religious and lay delegates to the Synod are beginning the process of considering the direction that the Church needs to take in the coming years. All these are very complex issues in this fractured and suffering world...

In this Sunday's second reading (Philippians 4:6-9) we are challenged: “Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude.” (Please read the full brief passage from Philippians.)

In today's gospel passage we read that a property owner built and fully equipped a vineyard and then leased it out to tenant farmers. When the owner returned to claim his share of the harvest the tenants beat and killed the owner's servants – and eventually the owner's own son! How could that be? Had the tenants completely forgotten all that had been provided for them to manage and develop?

You and I – and the members of the Synod in Rome – are the “tenant farmers” of the Church in the world. We all have a special responsibility to tend God's vineyard wherever we find ourselves and bring forth fruit in abundance. Let's not move on from where we are without taking stock of what we have been given and what needs to be done!

We can approach our task with open minds and hearts and full engagement... “Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude.” We are not alone in this endeavor! God provides us with all that we need, but sometimes we find it hard to comprehend or accept that...

Peace,
Deacon Ross