

Lenten Reflections for EOHSJ

Fourth Sunday of Lent 2019

(Laetare Sunday)

Reflection by Rev. Stephen Porter, KCHS



Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 The Prodigal

So who is the real “Prodigal” – the younger Son, the elder Son, or the Father? Traditionally we call this Gospel the “Prodigal Son”. This upstart kid demands his share and squanders it in riotous living. The elder kid seems to be pretty boring, a do-what-he-is-told type of man. The Father spoils them both, and he is the one, I think, who is prodigal with his estate. Lavishing it on the run-away, “all that I have is yours” to the stay-at-home. Both are resentful of dad (what kid doesn’t go through that stage?) but in the end one is reconciled for sure, and the other St. Luke doesn’t tell us. But what we know is that the Father never ceases in his love for them both, and in his desire that they be reconciled to one another as well as with him.

Lent is a time to be bold, as Knights and Ladies, we must step out and step up, and give a good example to all of our desire to be reconciled – not just to God yes, we go to Confession during Lent... don’t we? – but also to those around us. Is there a family member we haven’t spoken to in a while because of something they did (or we did) back in the day? Is there a neighbour whose tree sheds its leaves in our back yard, and doesn’t think to ask if we need help in gathering them up? Is there an employer, or employee, with whom we should be on better terms? Is there a priest, or bishop, who riles us? Now is the time, living the courtly style of knightly life, for us to make amends and to restore union where there was disunion.

Just as the Crusaders adorned their armour with the Cross of Jerusalem, so must we adorn ourselves with the Cross of Christ, and all the “weapons” He’s given us – the teaching authority of our Catholic Church (the Magisterium), and the 2000 year tradition of our Catholic Church, which together have given us the authentic Word of God in the Scriptures. Christ’s great commandment is to love one another, and He means in sacrifice – like the Prodigal Father – and as He himself did on the Cross. Our prayer as members of the Equestrian Order is a powerful weapon against the lures of the evil one when we continually – as St. Paul teaches us – thank God for all that we have, and then ask God for what we, and the world need. And the need is great! With Christ we Knights and Ladies can do it! Let us be the “Prodigal” Knights and Ladies never ceasing in our battle of love for God’s beautiful world.

Blessings.

Rev. Stephen Porter, KCHS, was invested in the Order in 2003 and has led pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Fr. Steve is a priest of the Diocese of San Bernardino, and serves at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Community in Beaumont, California.