

The Wisdom We Need

The month of November gives us the opportunity to reflect deeply on the last realities of life: death, judgment, and verdict. The two Solemnities we celebrated on November 1st and 2nd: All Saints and All Souls, all remind us of these realities. Sometimes it can be emotional to talk about death or to relive the memories of those that we love that have passed; but the gift of everlasting life God has given to us as St. Paul describes in the second reading becomes a consolation to us and a source of hope that one day we shall meet to part no more with these our brothers and sisters in heaven.

We need God's giving wisdom to know the things we need in our Christian journey. Our first reading personifies wisdom as one who comes to those who seek her and invite her to guide and direct them. Jesus in the gospel uses the parable of the Ten Virgins to teach the importance of wisdom in our journey to the kingdom of heaven. Five virgins were wise while five virgins were foolish. The wise virgins knew where they were going and what they needed (oil for the lamp). The foolish virgins knew where they were going, but were not wise to get what they needed (oil of the lamp). Hence, by the time they got the oil it was late for them and the doors to the wedding feasts were looked behind them.

Jesus ends the parable with the admonition "stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Jesus has invited all of us to the wedding feast, which is the eternal life. He wants us to be wise to know the things we need in the journey to embrace this gift of salvation. Wisdom is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that helps us to use wisely the things of the world to prepare for the things of heaven. Let us ask God to give us always the wisdom to make right choices for him and not against him. Amen.

"Give your servant, therefore, a listening heart ... to distinguish between good and evil" (1 Kings 3: 9).