

Christ the Servant Parish: "He Has Sent Me To Bring Glad Tidings to the Poor, To Heal the Broken Hearted, To Proclaim Liberty to the Captive and Release to the Prisoner."



If we look at Jesus' life, we will experience a person who lived among his own people, walked the streets of Galilee and Jerusalem; and the rest of the story follows. It is within his life story that we discover the identifying characteristic of his life. Throughout his life journey he never gave up on inviting others to sit at the table with him. We also know from the written Gospels that he was advised, encouraged, and confronted by the religious authorities to refrain from eating with those considered unclean, those pronounced impure, and in fact from even physically touching those contaminated with illness of the body and possessed by the "demons" of the spirit.

All of this never deterred Jesus from sharing in God's project of repairing the world. He continued to accompany others enabling others to see reality in a new way. For those who continued to see themselves as the righteous ones, he challenges them to de-center themselves. He asked those that saw themselves as the clean to begin seeing the person sitting across the table from them in the same way God sees every human person, as a beloved son or daughter.

God's project is the mission of the Church – God's mission; "Doing this in memory" of the one who took on God's message in the flesh. Each time we gather as Church at the table of the Lord, we are reminded that we have a very definite job to do in within our acre of God's world – Canton.

We face tremendous challenges as a Church today in not separating and isolating ourselves from the people outside our faith community. The meaningfulness of what we do each day as disciples is in connecting with all those "others" who do not know the transforming power of Jesus' presence in our lives. His teaching and moral vision continues to challenge our way of life as a parish community, inspiring and infusing every person and family in intentionally living their Christian life. Christ needs a body in this world – and we are called to be the Body of Christ.

Our Holy Father Francis has proposed **Six Additional Beatitudes** for our contemporary world. In understanding of our service to God's mission here at Christ the Servant, these Beatitudes enable us to identify the "how" of our discipleship.

I am asking our Community and the four Community Councils: **Liturgical Life, Social Concerns, Education, and Parish Life** to pray and reflect, individually and as councils and committees, on how these Beatitudes can further inform a Beatitude Way of Life as Christ the Servant Parish. L Gaetano

"Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others, and forgive them from their heart;

"Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized, and show them their closeness;

"Blessed are those who see God in every person, and strive to make others also discover him;

"Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home;

"Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others;

"Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians."