

“Old Habits Dies Hard”

My dear friends,

There was a young man, very well off in life. He met a wise teacher and asked, “Teacher, what should I do to have everlasting life?” The teacher looks at him with love and said, “You have done well, but there is one thing you have not done.” You probably could guess what this “one thing” the rich young man lacked.

This was an encounter Jesus had with a rich young man seeking eternal life – a life with God. Our Lord said to the young man, “Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” (Mark 10:21). The young man went away sad because he had much possessions. We can see the young man cannot let go of his comfortable lifestyle to follow our Lord. He may even have old habits he find difficult to let go, since following our Lord requires a radical change many find uncomfortable.

I find this really true in my recent transition to Saint Jude and Holy Innocents from All Saint, Puyallup and Saint Martin of Tours, Fife. Spending my first two years as a priest at these two parishes trained me to be a priest I am now. However, moving to Saint Jude and Holy Innocents introduces me to different ways of doing the same ministry, most of these are not seen with our naked eyes. My old habits continue to make their presence in the way I practice ministry, and these habits may cause misunderstanding or uncomfortableness in those I work with. For instance, I am not familiar with livestream Masses, and now I livestream Masses as often as I eat rice (😊). Therefore, I need to readjust these old habits and hope to learn from Fr. Johnson, the staffs, and many of you. Another example, I am a visual learner, and it is a challenge not able to see your face during COVID-19. I find it a challenge to connect with many of you. I pray that God gives me strength and allows me to see His presence in a new home – St. Jude and Holy Innocents.

A question I would like you to ponder for a few minutes, what old habit(s) do you need to let go in order to follow Jesus?

I pray that our Blessed Mother intercedes for us so that we may be attentive to God’s prompting in our lives.

Prayers and Blessing,

Fr. Anh