

## The Lord Be With You - Homily

As we begin Lent, we often say, I just wish I could get more out of Lent. I wonder what I am going to give up for this Lent.

My dear friends, may I suggest that we might want to ask ourselves – how, can I give myself more to Jesus this Lent?

The beginning of the Mass helps us focus on giving ourselves more to Jesus – Priest says: Lord Be with You.

This is not a Catholic way of saying hello or when we respond – we not saying Good Day to you too Father.

This greeting expresses the profound reality of God's life dwelling within our souls by virtue of our Baptism.

These were words used by God or God's messengers when they were sent to call people to action:

- Joshua – Lord was going to be with him as he led the people into the Promised Land
- Moses at the burning bush, when called to lead the Israelites – not a job Moses was looking forward. Moses tried to get out of this call
- God says to Moses – I will be with you  
He does not send Moses to a school to learn how to speak, or a negotiation class so he talk with Pharaoh  
God gives him what he needs the most –  
God's presence - I will be with You.
- Blessed Mother received the same Lord Be with You - Hail Mary Full of Grace – The Lord is with You.

So too have we on our Baptism day. When God poured the fullness of His love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit deep within each of us. Never to leave us from that day on.

Lord Be with You – With these words, the priest is praying that the divine life we received in Baptism may continue to grow within us.

Our First Reading the Lord says, return to me with your whole heart...

Second Reading Paul says, We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us

At the Last Supper, Jesus did not say I am leaving soon and I wish you good luck, no he said, **“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”**

- He did not leave us alone. He has given us His Presence and called us to Return to Him with our whole heart.

Just as the Blessed Mother was called to be the Mother of God, "The Lord be with you" reminds us that as God's children, we each have a particular mission to fulfill in the Father's plan.

- How we are going to be this light, the world needs? –

Do you ever feel stretched or overwhelmed with the demands of life? Do you ever feel like Moses-inadequate for the mission God has entrusted to you, whether it be in marriage, family, work, or living your Catholic faith?

If so, the words at the beginning of the liturgy, "The Lord be with you," can both inspire and encourage you.

If we feel uncertain or inadequate through trials, illness, loss of a love one, and the challenges of life; when we hear these words, we should realize that the Lord is with us to assist us.

If we are experiencing sorrow, discouragement, darkness in our spiritual lives, the Mass reminds us that the Lord is with us, even though we may not sense His presence.

This greeting points to the awesome reality in which we are about to participate -- The mysteries of Christ's Death, Resurrection, and communion with Christ's Body and Blood.

We are not worthy of so great an honor, but the Priest's words remind us at start of Mass that the Lord is with us.

Just like Joshua, Moses, and many others, we can confidently trust in the Lord's help. We can trust that God's strength will make up for whatever is lacking within us.

Remember, it is not just what I am going to give up for this Lent, it is about how, can I give myself more to Jesus this Lent? Three Things to think about for Lent:

- Eucharist – The Mass – The Real Presence of Jesus Christ
- Sacrament of Penance – Reconciliation – Being restored back to the grace of our Baptism.
- Adoration – spending time with God -- Lord Be with You.

Jesus says to each one of us:

"I am truly here waiting for you, please Come Visit Me!

**We adore You O Christ and we praise You, because by  
Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.**

By Deacon Michael