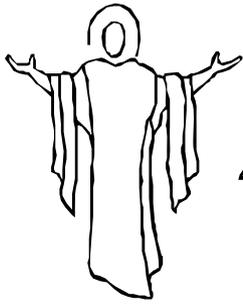


Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



ALL SAINTS



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Our Mission Statement: *The All Saints Catholic Community is a fully integrated, multicultural community with English as its unifying language. It is an open, warm, welcoming, inclusive community that prays together and celebrates its unity in diversity.*

July 11, 2010 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30:10-14 • Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37 • Colossians 1:15-20 • Luke 10:25-37

Celebrant: Father Wolfgang Felber SJ

Jesus meets people differently. I like it when Jesus meets people. Jesus meets three persons – very different people. • Let us have a look at the text: the **first** one says. “I will follow you wherever you go.” This person, a man or a woman, is enthusiastic about Jesus. He or she wants to give everything to follow Jesus. The **second** person says: “Let me go first and bury my father.” Jesus actively asks this person, but this person is clinging to everything he or she experiences as normal, as unquestionable. And he or she is prepared to protect this “comfort zone” where nothing should come and disturb, there is no room for surprises. This is the meaning of the word Jesus says: “*Let the dead bury their dead*” – there is no life without leaving behind things you are used to, there is no life without risking something. And the **third** person says: “I will follow you, but first let me say farewell to my family at home.” This is someone who hesitates, who thinks about everything in depth and who wants to keep everything in his or her hand. • Three very different people. Do you recognize yourselves in one of these? The reaction of Jesus is different for everyone of the three, the reaction of Jesus is always very personal. • Remember the **first** one – the enthusiast. Jesus brings this person back to reality. Living and wandering with Jesus, proclaim his good news, is not easy, to follow Jesus is not always only happiness. And Jesus is realist enough to make this clear to those who have a wrong idea of what it means to be on Jesus' side. Now remember the **second** one – the one who clings to his “comfort zone”, who tries to avoid surprises and hates risks. Here Jesus encourages to take the chance of the moment, to accept the invitation Jesus offers. And the **third** one – the one who hesitates. Jesus challenges this person directly. “Don't look back. Go your way with me, now!” • Jesus would talk to each of us here in a similar way. Did I say “Jesus WOULD” do this? I should say: “Jesus talks to each of us here in a similar way.” This is my conviction – for Jesus we are partners, we are friends, he talks to us, we have a name and Jesus knows all our names – and he invites us to be his friends. Let us keep some silence and ask ourselves: Who am I in the eyes of Jesus, what would he tell me, what does he tell me now? Can I trust him, do I want to trust him? Am I sure that Jesus is my friend?

Father Wolfgang Felber SJ

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