

Homily – Tuesday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Mass for Catholic Charities – October 25, 2022

Does anyone here know the secret for fast baking? If I buy a cake mix that says: “Place the batter in the oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes,” but I want to have it ready in 15, what happens if I raise the temperature to 700 degrees? Do I get my cake faster?

When a baker is working, he must watch for many things. The kitchen and water temperature, and the proportion of ingredients need to be right. He needs to add each combining element in order, make the right movements, let the mix rest, heat, re-knead. He needs to repeat a careful procedure for the yeast to do its job and get the dough to rise. If everything goes right, he can finally place the dough in the oven at just the right temperature for a certain time. And if he needs to have the bread ready before the prescribed time or changing an ingredient, he will simply not deliver it on time, and it will be flat or burnt. No matter what it is, it will not taste good.

Things that are worthwhile cannot be rushed. Their development requires time and careful work. It is like the kingdom of God. It is the closest thing to a cultivated friendship. When two people barely know each other, the bonds of union and affection between them are minimal. At first it is like the mustard seed in the parable. It is small. But if it is diligently and patiently cultivated and watered, it grows and becomes a large bush.

If we accept God’s invitation to let him reign in our lives – because we have realized that he can work wonders for us and through us – and we cultivate our friendship with him, little by little,

God will take over our hearts, our minds, even our feelings. He will be our King and Lord because we gladly and freely allow him. He is like the yeast, but also like the baker. We must allow him to do his work in us and do it the way only he knows. The role of the Church is to make him known to us, so that we learn to trust him and let him do his work in us.

The second parable we heard today expresses the same thing: yeast – God himself through his Son – through his Word, can ferment the whole batch of dough, the whole being of the person. This is how his power to transform us works.

Letting God be the Lord of our life is a process that on God's part always goes further. Pope Francis has said that “the yeast and the seed are on the path to ‘making’ something”. And “the kingdom is also this way. (...) Yeast and seed die. The yeast is no longer yeast: it mixes with the flour and becomes bread for all, a meal for everyone. The seed will no longer be seed: it will become a tree and will become a home for all, for the birds”. We must never be stagnant. We must be used to being “on a path,” constantly accepting challenges, changing for the better, dying to self for the greater good. Docility to the Holy Spirit “will make us grow and transform as the yeast and seed”.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, make us comfortable with the discomfort of following your Son.