

**31st Friday of Ordinary Time – St. Charles Borromeo
Mass with Assumption Seminary Community
November 4, 2016**

Our Lord calls us to prudence as children of the light. He challenges us in saying that our prudence should be greater than the children of the world. So what does that mean? You seminarians might be familiar with how St. Thomas Aquinas defines prudence: as “wisdom concerning human affairs” (ST II^{ae} 47.2 ad 1) or “right reason with respect to action” (ST II^{ae} 47.4). Prudence is wisdom in our actions and decisions – understanding who we are and how we should act. For us, this means understanding from the perspective of our faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ. What do you think, my brother seminarians? Are “the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than the children of light?”

Jesus is quite hard on us in the Gospel, but of course he is justified. We are supposed to be shining God’s light in this world, but so often we get wrapped up in worldly things and try to affect the world as children of the world. But this is not who we are! “Our citizenship is in heaven!” Why do we act as if we are of this world? As an example, election years are always difficult times. Peace and

trust in God are strained, and sadly even we Christians are tempted to act as worldly creatures – our “minds are occupied with earthly things.” We forget the perspective we should have as children of the light.

May we heed the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis in his homily on this Gospel a few years ago: “We are the children of light. How are we living our own lives? Are we allowing the light of truth to shine into every area of those lives? Do we believe that the Christian faith is to inform every aspect of how we live, or have we set apart certain areas which are outside of the reach of the saving truth of the Gospel? We need to hear these words from Jesus with humility and honesty - and allow them to root themselves deep within us, so that they lead each one of us to a change in lifestyle” (23 Sept. 2013).

Meditate today on what your answers are to this challenge of true Christian prudence. Are you acting out of the wisdom of a child of the light? Ask Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Charles Borromeo – who we celebrate today – to intercede for you and show you more deeply the prudence proper to us children of God. We are here not to change the world to suit our desires, but to build the Kingdom of God that will bring all people into God’s wonderful light. “Let us go rejoicing into the house of the Lord.”