

Monday Week 10 of Ordinary Time

Readings: Mt. 5:1-12



Reflection

“How happy (or Blessed) are the poor in spirit... the gentle... those who mourn... those who hunger and thirst for right... the merciful... the pure in heart... the peacemakers... those who are persecuted...” These words of Christ at the beginning of His “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew’s Gospel are used at the beginning of Part Three of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This part of

the Catechism is called “Life in Christ” which reminds us that the Christian life is lived *in Christ*, by His grace. Indeed, we don’t just follow Jesus Christ, we live IN Him. The Catechism says that the Beatitudes show us the face of Christ (c.f. CCC 1715), as He is the one who is truly poor in spirit, gentle, who mourns, and so on.

The reward for each of these conditions is a share in heavenly glory, indicated in this fresco by Fra Angelico. This is one of a series of frescos painted by the Dominican for the cells of his community. Fra Angelico places Christ in the exact centre of the painting and portrays him wearing red and blue; red, the colour of blood reminds us that He is fully man and blue, the colour of heaven, reminds us that He is fully God.

He is seated above the Apostles on a rock, which reminds us of the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus teaches that those who hear His words and do them, are like those who build their houses on rock, that is, with firm foundations. In the Beatitudes we see that those who suffer for others, who recognise their poverty in spirit (meaning that we can never have enough of the Holy Spirit in our lives) and so on, will reflect the face of Christ to the world.

Jesus points to heaven, showing that our destiny is with His Father. We cannot earn our salvation, Jesus Christ did that for us in His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension, but by the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can live a life IN Christ, loving and serving one another.

Carol Ann Harnett 8th June 2020