

HOMILY FOR THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR OF MATTHEW

1. Preparing: quote from Ron Rollheiser:
 - a. We humans strange creatures, we are both more loving than we think and more sinful than we imagine. Too hard and too easy on ourselves at same time.
 - b. As he says we are generous to a fault and are warm and hospitable
 - i. We want to reach out and embrace the world
 - ii. We possess a big heart and a grand soul
 - iii. What hinders us from being loving is frustration
 - iv. The world's problems are overwhelming or we are struggling with our own wounds and sensitivities
 - v. We are looking for a safe warm place to show our love but are unable to find it
 - vi. We look cold and self-centered when we are only hurt and wounded
 - vii. We are not so much bad as frustrated, so are better than we may look
 - c. He also points out that we are sinners too, more so than we think
 - i. This is an essential teaching of St. Paul who said: "It's not a question of are you a sinner? It's only a question of what is your sin?"
 - ii. Just as we possess a big heart and grand soul, we also possess a petty spirit
 - iii. In us there is selfishness, jealousy and a pettiness of heart and mind
 - iv. Making things worse is that we are usually blind to our real faults
 - v. As Jesus said we want to remove the splinter in our neighbor eye, missing the plank in our own
 - d. There is a fundamental contraction within us
 - i. Where we think we are sinners and perhaps feel shame is often not where others struggle with us, not our real fault
 - ii. On the other hand where we think we are most virtuous and holy may actually be our real sin and the place where other struggle with us
 - e. What this means is that we are loved sinners
 - i. We are at the same time both better and worse than we think we are
 - ii. The hope we have is that we choose to humbly accept this contradiction within us
2. When Jesus gives us the command to love God with all that we are
 - a. He is asking to realize that God sees us for who we are
 - b. He knows where we are better than we think as well as worse
 - c. God has gifted us with the possibility of being the person that we are

- i. Our goodness reflects God's glory and our weakness gives us room to grow into God's love and grace
- d. Knowing that God does not abandon us should move us to love Him with all our heart, soul and strength
- e. Seeing that our neighbor is also in the middle of the same struggle as we are
- f. He or she is also better and worse than they think
- g. We are invited to have the same empathy God has for us for our neighbor
- h. Just as we are still works in progress so is our neighbor and so we should want to help them, to pray for them as much as we want God to care for us.
- i.