

Thirty - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Nov. 8, 020.

Some years ago, out in the State of Washington there was a Superintendent of Schools who was making a number of arbitrary decisions that was upsetting the teachers, students and parents. While things were in turmoil a newspaper reporter asked the school janitor his opinion of the situation. He replied, "well, the Superintendent is very intelligent but not very smart!" In other words, he lacked "Wisdom". Distortory describes wisdom as making good judgments- of always choosing the soundest course of action in every situation. Of course, the dictionary is talking about human wisdom, earthly wisdom.

Today's Scripture readings are seeking to arouse in us a longing for wisdom on a much higher level, namely, spiritual wisdom and Divine wisdom. Jesus gives us a clue on how the gift of spiritual wisdom is received in two simple words, "**Stay awake!**"

One of the ways I have discovered that helps me wake up on the inside, is simply to **give attention to the present moment**. For example, often times before I celebrate Mass, I call to mind the statement by the author and convert to the church, Annie Dillard, when she said, "If we were really aware of what is happening when we attend Mass, we would buckle our seat belts and put on crash helmets!" In other words, "Give attention to the present moment."

In today's first reading, it invites you and me to watch for wisdom, that is the Holy Spirit. It invites us to love her, desire her, seek her, and keep vigil for her and we will quickly be set free of fear, worry and we will not be disappointed.

The Psalm Response. It speaks to us of thirsting and seeking God night and day in everyone and everything. To see Jesus in the inconvenient interruptions and the negative response, in the streets and everywhere.

Paul's letter to Romans. He tells us to console one another that the day is coming when you and I will be with God forever. This is the famous reading that the Fundamentalists refer to as the rapture. As Catholics we do not take it so literally.

Today's Gospel, all ten Virgins were caught sound asleep when the Bridegroom arrived. The difference is that five of them slept with a good conscious because before they went to sleep, they had prepared for his coming. They made sure their oil lamps would not go out. They had lived in the **present moment**.

There is a story that sums it all up well. Some years ago, a journalist asked elderly woman her philosophy of life. She summed it up by saying, "Well, when I works, I works. When I plays, I plays, when I prays, I pray. And when I sits down, I falls asleep!"