

Homily for September 26, 1999
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A

By Father Charles Bowes

Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

Spirituality is prayer elevated to the level of a lifestyle.

“Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before you,” Jesus said to some really devout folks of His day, according to Matthew 21. Believe me, that was not the way to win friends and influence people...in fact, such words eventually got Jesus crucified. It is important to note that Jesus is not critical of the religious practices of the pious but of what those religious practices did to their spirits: it made them feel superior. ...So superior in fact, that it was impossible for them to recognize something new coming among them: namely, Jesus. The folks who had nothing to start with – who made no pretense about being virtuous – the prostitutes and sinners – these were the folks who were flexible and open, and that openness and flexibility is what Jesus praised.

Just how open we are to the coming of the Spirit is indicated by how we use the things we have...our spirituality is reflected in the way we live – how we dispose of the goods, the treasures, the talents that we have been given.

This weekend we are hearing something about tithing and about our parish financial needs – we are facing a deficit unless there is an increase in financial support in the weekly collection. To hear how just one

family approaches this subject, I've invited Ms. Colleen Harris to speak to us.

For all you've done...for all you hope to do, I thank you.

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