

August 2, 2009

18th Sunday of the Year – B

A. In 1992, Henry Aaron published his autobiography: “I Had a Hammer”

- retired from baseball in 1976 ... hit 755 home runs ... beat Babe Ruth’s record
- one story: Aaron ... known as Hammering Hank ... wanted to buy his mother a new home / she wasn’t all that interested ... Her comment to her son:
- “Henry, I’m not looking for a new home. I’m looking for Jesus.

- crowd in the Gospel was looking for Jesus
their motive: miracle of the loaves ... looking for food
 - Jesus: there is food for this life: meat and potatoes / sweet corn / quail and manna ...for Moses
 - another food: food that feeds the hungers of the heart: our hunger for meaning, for love, for wholeness
 - food for our spiritual life ... keeps our souls alive and growing
 - scripture / sacraments / prayer / alms-giving / fasting

B. Another person who was looking for Jesus ... Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

- In 1948 she kept hearing a voice ... “Come, Come, carry me into the holes of the poor. Come, be My light.” The voice of Jesus calling her to a new vocation
- like Moses, Mother Teresa was a leader ... an instrument of life
- Moses: quail and manna ... from God / Mother Teresa ... light
- What Mother Teresa and her community did was to bring to the poor and dying the gift of God’s compassion and care ... that work continues all over the world
- She was criticized for not changing the system – but her mission was not systemic change but direct ministry to the destitute and dying – to be God’s light and love

C. Third person ... St. Francis of Assisi ...

- Julien Green’s *God’s Fool: The Life and Times of Francis of Assisi*
- passage: “Someone loved him madly, and in some obscure way he must have felt it, but that feeling defied translation except in continual bursts of laughter and jokes that poured from his lips as if he were a giddy schoolboy.” (26)
- let’s be clear: God is the one looking for us / not we for God ... God’s initiative
- true of Zacchaeus, true of Mrs. Aaron and Mother Teresa, true of us
- true of St. Paul: a new self ... Jesus found him and transformed his life

D. Mrs. Aaron, Mother Teresa, St. Francis = given the gift of sight ... they were looking for the Lord in their unique way, in their unique circumstances. Mrs. Aaron, Mother Teresa, St. Francis were not only looking, they were seen – seen by a God who loved them.

In the Eucharist, God looks upon us with love – that gaze can change forever our lives.