

I. Homily

II. “Let whoever is simple turn in here; to the one who lacks understanding, she says, Come, eat of my food, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding.”

A. Eat food and drink!

1. Whooo! Hooo!
2. What is this all about? We have this book of Proverbs which is known as one of the books of Wisdom literature telling us to eat food and drink wine!
3. We may, at first, glance simply interpret this as an invitation to take joy in the Lord.
4. But there is more to it.

B. You notice that on one hand Wisdom tells us to eat and drink and on the other hand, Wisdom tells us to forsake foolishness and advance in understanding.

1. Note these two things very carefully:
 - a) *Eat and drink.*
 - b) *Advance in understanding...in knowledge.*
2. Before we get deep into the meaning of this scripture, let me take a point from our modern culture which can help demonstrate the point.

III. Many of you have certainly seen a hilarious commercial:

A. It depicts two young teenagers completely frustrated with their parents who are addicted to twitter, facebook and texting.

1. The teenagers are standing over their parents who are slouched on a couch frantically texting and twittering.
2. The teenagers are rebuking their parents who are completely focused on their cell phones. They are uttering phrases like:

- a) *“Mom, Dad, please stop twittering us.”*
- b) *The son tells his Dad, who has obviously just sent him a tweet although he is seated only feet from his son by the pool: “Dad I know you are sitting by the pool!”*
- c) *The daughter is equally frustrated and exhorts her mother: “Mom, please stop repeatedly posting ‘I love you’ on my facebook wall, because everyone can read it.”*
- d) *The parents through all of this are seemingly completely oblivious and, at no point, interact with their children in a conversation.*

B. The whole thing is hilarious, because it is a turnabout...instead of the teens being the one's ignoring their parents while they text, it is the parents who are ignoring their children as they text.

IV. Person

A. A joke is only truly funny when there is an element of truth conveyed. The joke helps us to laugh at ourselves a little bit and perhaps not take ourselves too seriously.

1. The truth here is that the basic and optimal human interaction which is an essential part of all of us is a simple conversation...where two people look one another in the face and speak to one another.
2. The reason the commercial is funny is not only because of the turnabout in roles between the children and their parents, but that the parents refuse to interact with their children except electronically even though they are standing right there.
3. The commercial is funny because the more desirable personal communication is voluntarily replaced by a more impersonal form of communication.

B. It is interesting to note that, even though businesses are increasingly choosing to forego business trips, in which individuals no longer actually travel to the place of the meeting, and more and more electronic meetings are occurring, the business trip has not completely fallen by the wayside.

1. Further, even when a webinar or business meeting takes place, the most desirable meeting is the one in which there is a visual and audio link between the parties.
2. There are some things which cannot be taken care of simply by an exchange of email.
3. The personal communication is still desirable and even essential in many circumstances.
4. You notice that when Bill Clinton negotiated the release of those two American journalists in North Korea. He did not simply text Kim Jung Il. He went there to get them.
5. When deciding the fate of the world economy, the G-8 obviously did a great deal behind the scenes, but they still meet in person.
6. There is no replacement for it.

V. Why is this important? What does this have to do with our faith?

A. Well...remember...we started this whole discussion by speaking about our first reading today which was a passage speaking to us about Wisdom.

B. Before we tie all of this together, we need to answer the question: What is Wisdom?

1. The first reading speaks of Wisdom not as the secluded Buddhist monk seated on the top of Mount Everest contemplating the universe.
2. We are speaking of Wisdom as found in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Covenant:
 - a) *First, Wisdom is a gift given by God.*
 - b) *Second, Wisdom is “the pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty” and “as the fashioner of all things.”*
 - c) *Third, therefore, Wisdom is the order which God placed in all things and in the world when he created it. You might say that Wisdom is God’s mind in the world.*

d) *Fourth, although the Old Testament Wisdom literature offers practical advice about how to establish one's life and the life of one's family intelligently, wisely, in the fear of God, in righteousness, honesty, labor and abstinence, and how to be a useful participant in society, the Bible sees true wisdom in sacrifices offered in this life out of love for God.*

e) *Fifth, this type of sacrifice teaches us humility which is essential for true wisdom.*

f) *Finally, and this is the really important point, Wisdom is not a thing...not a precept...but a person and this person shares a familial relationship with God.*

C. Wisdom

1. *The book of proverbs personifies Wisdom describing Wisdom as sitting beside God Himself.*

2. *Wisdom in the book of proverbs speaks this way about itself: "The Lord made me the beginning of His ways for His works. He established me before time; in the beginning, before He made the earth, even before He made the depths, before the fountains of the waters came forth, before the mountains were established, and before all hills, He begat me. The Lord made lands and uninhabited tracts and the uttermost inhabited parts under heaven. When He prepared heaven, I was present with Him; and when He prepared His throne upon the winds, and when He made the clouds above mighty, and when He secured the fountains of the earth, and when He strengthened the foundations of the earth, I was by Him, arranging all things..." (Prov. 8:27-31; 35).*

VI. Jesus Christ

A. When the early Christians reflected on these passages from scripture, they immediately began to recognize this personified Wisdom in the person of Jesus Christ.

1. You have probably heard, for example, Mary referred to as the Seat of Wisdom.

2. We picture here, Jesus Christ seated on Mary's lap. Since Jesus Christ is Wisdom, Mary is the Seat of Wisdom.

B. This reality that Wisdom is a person and that person is Jesus Christ is extremely important for us living our faith and ties extremely well into our readings today and our example about that commercial.

1. First, when wisdom tells us in our first reading to “eat food and drink wine,” think of our Lord telling us “Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you.”
2. Second, when wisdom tells us: “Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of understanding,” think of the Word made flesh who is the order in the universe, the mind of God in the world. Think of the Word made flesh who did not remain an abstract concept but who is eminently real.
3. This Wisdom then is not just some good advice on how to live our lives.
 - a) *This Wisdom is a person who offers us the most intimate relationship we can have with a person.*
 - b) *He unites us all together in His Mystical Body.*
4. What about that commercial?
 - a) *unless we are given a way for Jesus Christ to be inside of us, we will turn Jesus Christ into an abstraction.*
 - (1) Unless he is a person who is both infinite and personal and whom we take into us, we risk attempting to twitter and text wisdom.
 - (2) A true deep relationship includes not just ordinary knowledge of words and concepts but a true deep and personal relationship with the Word who is the order in the universe and true meaning for our lives.
 - b) *We can encounter Christ anywhere, but there is only one place that we receive Him body, blood, soul and divinity and it is in the Holy Eucharist!!!!*
 - (1) We can twitter. We can text. We can put him on our wall.
 - (2) There is replacement for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
 - (3) This is no joke.