

Sunday23-A6 homily by Fr. Gabor

‘Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.’

This Gospel again tells us about how authority can be used. I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that if you have authority that means you have been authorised by someone else, ie. you received certain powers from someone else to use for the benefit of others. You are to use this gift of authority in the name of God, or Christ, just as every Christians is supposed to do so.

Now if you look at this quotation, meeting in the name of Christ means to meet under his authority, which means that when you meet, for example as a family, or as friends or as a prayer group, etc. you need to use the power He has given you for the spiritual benefit of the participants at that meeting. So for example having a Parish Pastoral Council meeting to help the parish priest to use his powers for the sake of the spiritual benefit of others is clearly a meeting in the name of Jesus, because that is the purpose for which his powers have been given to him.

Jesus is there through his power, namely the Holy Spirit, and if we even specifically ask the Holy Spirit to come upon all who have gathered that increases the influence of the Holy Spirit upon the participants at such a meeting which is arranged in the name of Christ. This is why I always start such kind of meetings with calling upon the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

So, if you meet for prayer as a family or for sharing your spiritual experiences, invite the Holy Spirit, the power of Christ, to be among you and ask for His guidance.

This is also true to meetings with people with whom you want to sort out some differences, and in fact for such meetings it is even more important to call upon the Holy Spirit, because when you are dealing with a potentially explosive situation evil spirits will be around and will take every opportunity to make you and your opponent jump to each other’s neck. Surely Christ would disappear from such a meeting. On the other hand if you call upon the Holy Spirit before your meeting He will guide you as to what to say, and He will make sure that you come out of that meeting with peace in your hearts, or with some sense of progress in your relationship with that person.

Thus, eventually God’s love, mercy and forgiveness will be glorified and not our own pity human desire for revenge or self-justification or manipulation.

So, develop a habit of calling upon the Holy Spirit before your meetings, and let Him take over the flow of your conversations!