

Fr. Romeo Evangelista's Homily  
July 21, 2019  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

There was a little old cleaning woman that went to the local church. When the invitation was given at the end of the service, she went forward wanting to become a member. The pastor listened as she told him how she had accepted Jesus and wanted to be baptized and become a member of the church.

The pastor thought to himself, "oh my, she is so unkempt, even smells a little, and her fingernails are not clean; what would the members think of her". He told her that she needed to go home and pray about it and then decide. The following week, here she came again. She told the pastor that she had prayed about it and still wanted to be baptized. "I have passed this church for so long. It is so beautiful, and I truly want to become a member".

Again the pastor told her to go home and pray some more. A few weeks later while out eating at the restaurant, the pastor saw the little old lady. He did not want her to think that he was ignoring her so he approached her and said, "I have not seen you for a while. Is everything all right"?

"Oh, yes", she said. "I talked with Jesus, and he told me not to worry about becoming a member of your church". "He did"? said the pastor. "Oh, yes", she replied. "He said even He hasn't been able to get into your church yet, and He's been trying for years".

That is why it is important on how we make better choices in our mission as a Church that promotes love and service to the people.

In our first reading, Abraham had a choice to make—will he greet the three men he sees from a distance and offer them hospitality, or will he ignore them? He greets them and is rewarded with a child to his barren wife.

Martha and Mary greet Jesus at their house. Martha disappears into the kitchen to prepare food and refreshments. Mary sits at the feet of Jesus and listens to what He has to say. There is obviously a time for both of these responses, but Jesus affirms that Mary has chosen the better part this time.

We make lots of choices every day. Our choices ought to bring us closer to Jesus and increase our love for one another. To do this, we need to exercise the gift of discernment that God has given us. This is not always easy to do, but it is essential that we learn how to choose right from wrong and good from evil.

Often the choice we have to make is the unpopular one. Should we disregard it in order to remain popular? Of course not! We should always choose the truth—that which is good, right, and perfect, no matter what the consequences may be. Only the truth can set us free. This can be very difficult at times, but it is these kind of choices—the courageous ones—that will form our character the most. We cannot allow ourselves to be concerned about popularity and ease of life. We need to focus on doing what Jesus would do, which is, always the right thing—if He were in our situation. As it is said, “the choices that we make are what defines us”.

As we all know, the big project of rebuilding the Markey Center is a big choice that we have taken as a community. Because we believe that this project will help us all in our mission to grow in our loving service for the people. That is why we need your help for this project, but still you have a choice to make, we just hope that you will make the better choice.