

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebration of Twinning, 4:30PM Mass at St. Monica-St. George

Every month the chancery sends out the Clergy Bulletin, and almost every month Mike Gable, the director of the Mission Office, has an invitation in there to come and have lunch. (It hasn't always been clear if he is paying for the lunch.) He offers to come and have lunch with the parish team to talk about twinning. I suspect if he invited us to the now closed Maisonnette or the Palm Court Café there would still be few accepting the offer.

We're busy; we have many interests; not enough time for missions and justice and things that make us less comfortable.

But there are a growing few, becoming many, who are discovering the richness of the Kingdom banquet by stepping out of our comfort zones into the banquet halls of Ghana, El Salvador, Peru, Jamaica, Appalachia, Mexico, Senegal and many other places.

Isaiah poetically sings of the great rich feast that is God's holy mountain. Embracing the Kingdom of God, rejoicing in salvation and sharing that grace is like a great Feast.

St. Monica-St. George is only beginning this journey. Many here today have been enjoying the Feast of Twinning for many years.

The visions set forth by Isaiah and Matthew are made quite real when we begin to see so many nationalities, races, economic strata—all at one table.

Our Eucharistic tables here in Cincinnati and Dayton and Hamilton and other cities throughout the archdiocese become much richer when we know we are linked to other tables and altars around the world. How good it is to know that there is a world outside of Cincinnati! There is a good, wonderful world beyond the United States. We have so much culturally, spiritually and religiously to learn from one another.

And yet, like in the parable, we too often ignore, mistreat, even turn to violence toward those who are different from ourselves. We do it in the church and we do it in our national politics, policies and practices.

Twinning is a saving grace, expanding our horizons, keeping our altars, our dining room and kitchen tables hospitable and welcoming. I remember a few years ago when two Franciscan Friars were visiting the United States from Pakistan. They shared supper at the kitchen table with my mother and dad in Batesville, IN. (I doubt that anyone from Pakistan had ever been in Batesville.) What a blessing for my parents to have hosted such a simple yet important meal.

So we have gathered here today to celebrate the Banquet, to enjoy the richness that twinning is bringing into the life of our local church.