

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY - A

"What you have hidden from the wise and the learned, you have revealed to the little ones."

Perhaps these words of Jesus inspired St. Benedict to write in his rule for monks that the abbot, when seeking counsel, should listen to even the voices of the youngest members of the community, including the novices.

As you may remember, I was a novice in a Benedictine monastery in Oregon 5 years after I was ordained a priest.

Once we had been there a few months, our novice master asked us to write an essay about what we saw ourselves doing in the monastery after we were solemnly professed.

I began my essay with: "Well, besides being elected abbot someday ..."

I'm still struggling with humility; I think I've gotten better.

Sometimes I fall prey to the temptation of thinking that my way is the best way or the only way.

I need to remember what Jesus told his disciples: "Learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart."

I know that even recently I flew off the handle and yelled at someone.

For that, and all those times I expressed anger or frustration inappropriately, I am very sorry.

Jesus invites all of us to come to him to find rest and to take his yoke upon our shoulders.

Perhaps that sounds contradictory: Receiving rest and accepting a yoke.

I'm sure that over the past 10 years I have described how a yoke is usually a piece of wood that is used to connect two animals so that together they can pull a load that neither could shoulder alone.

The "rest" that Jesus offers us is communion with him that refreshes us in order to participate in his mission.

The "yoke" that we take on is the love which binds us to Jesus and to one another, and helps us to shoulder the crosses we are called to carry.

You and I, and all of us together, have been yoked in this place, at this time, in this parish.

Through our communion with Jesus and one another we find the strength we need to carry our burdens and celebrate our blessings.

As we begin our 11th year together, let us pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit about whom St. Paul wrote in today's second reading so that we will continue to grow as disciples of Jesus.

May we continue to worship God with joy, support one another as a family of faith, and serve our neighbors in the name of Jesus.