

## **Father Richard's Homily Summation**

### **5th Sunday of Lent**

God brings us to Himself; this is His major work. And it is God who always makes the first move. It is God who asked Adam where he was. And it is God who sent us His son to redeem us.

Faith in God brings with it a sense of peace. It is knowing that He has our best interest at heart, and that He is in full control. But living with faith is not always easy, because there are unruly aspects to one's life. There are the seven deadly sins (pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath, and sloth) constantly reminding us of our weak nature. Therefore, to avoid these, divine law must always be observed. This is often very difficult, so to deal with it, control is necessary. Prayer is necessary. As St. John Chrysostom says, it is impossible to live a virtuous life without prayer.

Our freedom is given us to choose what we ought to do rather than what we want to do. We can say yes to God's will, as Jesus did, despite the suffering he speaks about in today's Gospel.

In the Gospel, some Greeks (who were well versed in philosophy) want to speak with Jesus. Jesus knows that they are already familiar with Jewish views on the meaning of life. He knows their question is about his death. He therefore answers them on the meaning of death – his death in particular. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies,

it remains a grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit". He spoke to them in a way they would understand.

Life is hard. The trials we experience (and we all experience them) are the crosses we must bear. But Jesus tells us that we must take up our cross and follow him. Like the grain of wheat, we must die to our selfish ways to become fruitful, to fulfill our mission to feed others.

Jesus' example shows us how to do this. We must endure our trials patiently. Each time we do so, we "die" to our old way, and "rise" to a better way. This will happen many times in our lifetime. And the longer we live, the more deaths we will endure. But if we do this, our last death will become a resurrection to the perfect way, to life everlasting with Him.