



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY October 8 & BEYOND

“What would you give up for a place in the kingdom?”



America has a mild obsession with the British royal family. Given that we don't have our own royalty (outside of Hollywood's metaphorical “Royalty”) we have to live vicariously through another country's royalty. It sometimes surprises me how much interest we take in another country's royal family, but I think that the fact that we don't have our own makes the Queen and her family all the more interesting to us. Today I wonder what we would give up to be a part of the royal family. There are some who have given up a lot to become royals. Kate Middleton gave up her anonymity and any chance at a “normal” life in the same way that Diana did

before her. With all of the perks there are a lot of challenges in becoming part of the royal family.

In our reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi we read about another transition on a rather remarkable Jew from the first century into a royal family of his own. Paul tells us his own story of conversion and how he had a lot to give up to become part of the royal priesthood of Jesus. He was a leading Jew in the temple hierarchy and was blameless under the law. He had prayer and authority over those around him. He had a lot to lose if he were to go against those communities. But then Paul was met by Jesus and He was invited to join in the royal family of God. Paul describes that he was willing to give up all that authority and status and power because when he compared them to life in Jesus' family everything he held dear before suddenly looked like trash. “Rubbish,” he calls it.

For Paul, as for us, becoming a follower of Jesus is an invitation into the royal family of God. As he explains elsewhere God's mission in sending Jesus was to be in invitation to join in God's royal family. We are given an opportunity to become co-heirs, with Jesus, of God's heavenly kingdom. For Paul, all that he had to give up to

join this family was small and of little worth compared to the royal, extravagant invitation into God's family. Paul gave up his whole way of life to follow God's call and never looked back. How much would you be willing to give up joining God's royal family?

Father Mitchell Bojarski

Guest Priest

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel) Temporarily Cancelled

9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel) Temporarily Cancelled

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)