

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 14, 2010  
“Hope”

Decades ago, back in the mid-1960's, songwriter Hal David composed a popular tune whose first line was: “What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's one thing that there's just too little of.”

While it may seem appropriate, this being Valentine's weekend, to meditate in the direction those words lead us, I'd like to adjust those lyrics just a little to capture the lesson of today's Gospel on the 8 beatitudes.

So let's re-phrase that opening line to say: “What the world needs now is hope, sweet hope. It's one thing that there's just too little of.”

It is, after all, the underlying message behind each of the 8 beatitudes.

There will be relief from all our crosses.

We just have to keep the faith and hope for what God provides.

Let's look at where we are at.

Sure, things could be a lot worse.

Think of the people in Haiti, still digging out from that earthquake.

Or think of the people in countries where our troops are trying to liberate them from tyranny and terror.

But things could be a lot better, too.

Erie has been declared the poorest city in Pennsylvania.

So many people are without work.

Very many of them have just given up trying to find a job.

The economy is still very shaky.

Manufacturing jobs keep closing up around our area.

And Erie, by and large, has become a service industry, from the casino to the car-lots, from the marinas to the malls.

Oh, we thank God for what opportunities for work those sources bring. Yes, we do!

But the realities of hardship are still there.

And this is where hope comes in.

Underneath life's difficulties, summed up in today's Gospel beatitudes, we know that our hope must be in God, and not in the material riches of the world.

The so-called worldly rich can begin to believe that they, themselves, are the only source of their sufficiency.

Have you ever noticed that many times those who have everything they need, yet almost nothing they want, seem very happy?

Compare them to those who have everything they want, yet nothing that they really need.

It's like the wealthy person who has all the toys money can buy, but is so very lonely for love and human relationships.

All too often the things of the world can become our gods, the false gods, and lead us to hope in them as we become addicted to them.

But the hope-filled person knows there is more, beyond the material.

It is then that our hope soars, and we look to the Lord for all that we could ever want or need.

So, what the world needs now is more hope, hope in the Lord!

Thank you, and God bless you.