

Lenten Reflection

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

By Associate Mary Flick



“Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.”

Many of us have been teachers at some time in our lives. Today’s readings are directed at those with that all-important task, and so all of us. It has been said that “A teacher teaches what she most needs to know.” While we teach from what we know, we also learn from what we teach. This is never truer than when we teach of our faith. It happens not only in religion classrooms, but in our everyday lives. Moses, the Great Teacher, instructs the people with the statutes and decrees of God and assures them that following these teachings will be a noticeable sign of their wisdom to society, and a witness of God’s closeness and care for them – God’s providence.

Jesus continues the instruction, telling his disciples that his teachings are built on the wisdom of the past. Fulfillment of these teachings –passing on the wisdom of the tradition of our forebears – is essential for us who are to in God’s providential presence.

What is to be the content of our teaching? It is not just book knowledge. Most of all, we need to look around! See God’s providence in our everyday lives, and in the presence and actions of those who are friend and stranger to us. Moses tells the people – and us, “[Do not] forget the things which your own eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live, but teach them to your children and to your children’s children.” That great gift of memory is what enables us to hope. Perhaps that hope is our greatest teaching as women and men of Providence.