

THE SEARCH FOR HOLINESS

Jesus is inviting everybody to go on a spiritual journey and search for the divine *treasure and the heavenly pearl* of faith, which is buried in the field of our hearts (Matt 13:44-52). Some people leave Jesus buried alive in the depth of their hearts, without ever unearthing Him. As baptised Catholics, it is *our duty* to unbury and find this Treasure, which becomes visible and alive in the Eucharist. St. Paul says (Rom 8:28-30), *that those He called He justified, and with those He justified He shared His Glory [in Heaven]*. If we ignore His call to find Him, then our souls become spiritually dead, and not worthy of Heaven, where all souls are alive in Christ. Jesus says: *at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth*. Jesus is referring to Hell. In the first reading (1 Kings 3:5,7-12), Solomon, in his humility, asked God for *a heart wise and shrewd and to understand how to discern between good and evil*. We too should pray for the same thing, in order, to help us identify Jesus in the Sacraments of the Church.

ETERNAL JOY IN HEAVEN AWAITS THOSE WHO SEARCH FOR IT ON EARTH.

Jesus is the hidden Treasure and Pearl of great value. The joy of discovering the true meaning of life and committing oneself to a life of holiness, purity and honesty, will lead us to Heaven. Catholics who do not bother to cultivate the spiritual nature within them, and reject the Church on earth, live wasteful lives. They are not really interested in going to Heaven or else they would go to Mass. Those living in God's Divine Will have unearthed the pearl of great value. It really is worth searching for and sacrificing everything for it. This will become very evident on our Day of Judgement. In the parable, the man made sacrifices in order to buy the field. We too, have to part with certain things, in order to obtain something much greater. This involves a cost. We must give up sin. That is the Truth. Our thirst and hunger to satisfy ourselves, must not overtake our thirst and hunger for our own salvation and those of others. Living in sin will hinder our search for Heaven. Jesus wants us to disown our pride, our false sense of self-importance, our anger and lustful nature, in exchange for a pure heart full of the treasures of Heaven. If we go around full of gossip, pride, vanity, hatred, arrogance, jealousy, bitterness, resentment, and being uncharitable, then the Pearl and Treasure has not been found yet. Jesus emptied His Heart in order to bring us Himself in the Eucharist. This is the greatest Treasure on earth for our souls. Confession empties us of all sin. We must be open to what Jesus wants to teach us, like a householder, who brings out from their storeroom, things both new and old. This means we allow the Holy Spirit to bring people out of the Old Covenant and into the New Eternal Covenant. God bless, Fr. Brendan.