

Notes from the Liturgist...

FOLLOW...

Social media applications like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook have a feature that allows you to follow a certain person and like whatever they posted or shared. Actors, actresses, politicians, and other celebrities have many followers, but their followers follow simply by a click of the mouse.

Jesus is the author of these applications after all. Jesus have followers. His followers follow for several reasons. In the Gospel, after Jesus withdrew Himself, many followed Him. Some followed on the mountain, perhaps for a practical purpose. They wanted to avail of the bread being distributed by the disciples. Others followed Him to be healed.

There is a mysterious charisma that we sense in Jesus. Aside from the practical and spiritual reasons for following Him, His entire personhood draws people to Him. He has a perfect humanity. The word virtue comes from the Latin word "vir" which means "man." When you practice the virtues, you actually become more human.

In the spiritual aspect, virtues make us powerful and influential. It can even make us look spiritually beautiful. There is a certain attraction that makes people follow you when you possess virtues. Why? Because virtues are the breeding ground of God's grace. As St. Thomas Aquinas says, "Grace builds on nature." And our human nature should be a life living the virtues.

We follow Jesus because He give out all the virtues. We do not have bread to distribute or perform healing miracles, but we can draw people through our virtues.

Today my dear friends, figure it out. Maybe you can start with one virtue. I ask you, and I start with myself: How many virtues do I know? Do I practice these virtues every day? To become a follower of Jesus, download the virtues to your heart.