

## Thursday After Ash Wednesday February 26, 2009

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1:1-6; Luke 9:22-25

**Reflection:** Today's Gospel reading: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" and the first reading, "Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him," call us to examine who we really are and call us to become true to ourselves.

God's message is rather more direct and precise than mere religious verbiage. Can you follow me, so you can have life? What do those words mean? To me, God is asking, "Who am I to you? Where are you with your faith? How authentically are you living and practicing your faith in your daily activities with yourself, with colleagues, with friends and with strangers?" Living in the twenty-first century, with and without our choice, we become very busy with many daily activities. We run and fight for time, but, without any true meaning to our activity, we find ourselves bored and discontent. How can this be? A busy life does not truly measure the inner quality of Christianity, and what we do is not really who we are. So I ask myself, what is life for me? What role do I want the Lord to play in my life; a main player or a supporting character?

Our call to choose life may sound so simple and so right, but when trying to live an active and authentic Christian life, we can switch between those inconsistent roles of the prodigal son and the obedient son. It is such a relief for us to know that the Father is always waiting for our safe arrival home as long as we keep walking toward him with humble and grateful hearts. Let us choose life today and live as authentically as we can.



**Suggested Action:** When we meet people today, especially strangers, let us greet them with a smile and warm words, and, at the same time, silently pray for blessings on them.

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