

**JULY 3, 2011**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**MATTHEW 11:25-30**

One of the most treasured gifts God has given me regarding study and love of the Scriptures came to me many years ago through Father Quentin Haekenewerth, SM. He was giving a retreat to some CDP's and was explaining how he learned to pray. It seems that he approached a brother in his community and asked him how he prayed. When the brother explained his "method," Father Quentin asked him to teach him to pray in that way. The brother replied that he would gladly do so, but that first, Father Quentin would have to "let go" of all his knowledge, all his studies, all his academic achievements.

I think that is what Jesus is talking about when he states that God has given understanding "to the merest children." In his commentary on this passage in Jerome Biblical Commentary, John L. McKenzie states: "The message of Jesus is not grasped by wisdom and understanding; it is known only by revelation." In such a manner, our own simple stance in prayer can lead us to a real understanding of the message of Jesus.

We can look at the invitation to the weary to "take my yoke" in verse 29 as one that is in keeping with the need to "let go." It does not seem to be an invitation of Jesus, who faithfully carried his own trials and burdens as fulfillment of his mission. So for us, the "yoke and burden" Jesus gives us consist of our embracing the reign of God in our lives; in that way our trials and burdens, our mission, our ministries become part of the offering of Jesus. In that way, our boundaries are not the everyday stuff of our lives; rather, that everyday stuff gets stretched into the whole of salvation history. Thus we not only embrace the reign of God in our lives, we actually contribute to its realization.

***--Sr. Denise Billeaud, CDP***

***For reflection or sharing:***

- ▲ What method of praying helps you to be with God and to be for others?
- ▲ What are the most difficult things to "abandon to Providence", "to let go" at this time of your life?
- ▲ Jesus invites you to "take my yoke." What does this mean to you now and how do you hope your life will change as it is led by the yoke of Jesus?