

“... you have revealed them ... to little ones ...” What parent’s heart does not melt with the expressions of simple, unconditional **love** ... of a little child? What parent has not felt the **awesome** responsibility of ... walking hand in hand with their little one ... sensing their complete, total trust? Or what parent has not seen in the eyes of their children the absolute, wide-eyed belief of everything mom or dad tells them ... and total dismissal ... of anything to the contrary. Little children are simply the virtues of faith, hope and love in their most pure forms.

Children’s imaginations have not yet fallen into decay thru lack of use and they are ever so curious! They want to know why. They want to learn. Children are open books ... revealing whatever is in their heart. They are honest ... sometimes **uncomfortably** so! If you want an un-sugar-coated, honest answer ... ask a child.

Jesus tells us His Father reveals Himself to such as these ... those without the **philosophical** and **legal** baggage that kept the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees from being **able** to accept Jesus ... for who he was. These scholars of the law were not going to be taken to school by anyone ... certainly not by some itinerant carpenter who did **not** even keep the Sabbath. **“... you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned ...”**

God’s truth is just not that complicated. Jesus tells us it is simple: **“... my yoke is easy, and my burden light ...”**. He takes everything of importance in Mosaic Law and reduces it to a two-part commandment that can be summed up in a **single** word ... that every child understands ... “love”! We do not **need** to be burdened with the fine points of Mosaic law ... but we are to let **love** govern our lives.

But children ... grow up. And some of us ... maybe even most of us ... get so involved in the cares of the world ... that we lose that childlike trust and faith ... and even love. We **trade** these childlike gifts for the wisdom and learning of the world with all its cynicism. We become **“sophisticated”** adults, who can no longer **imagine** with childlike wonder ... whose lives are reduced to accumulating possessions ... popularity ... power ... the life of the **flesh** St. Paul speaks of. And when these rewards of our very un-childlike culture are accumulated ... we redirect our lives to holding onto these things and increasing them. ... And it is **wearying!** ...

But Jesus promises: “Take my yoke upon you and **learn** from **me** ... and you will find rest for yourselves.” But how can **anyone** who has subscribed to the wisdom of the world **possibly** learn from Jesus. In last week’s Gospel He said: “Whoever eats my

flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life ...”. How in the **world** can any intelligent ... educated adult take **that** seriously? How **childish!**

Well ... Jesus is telling us that we must ... return to those days of childhood ... when we imagined ... we loved and trusted and **could** believe. ... Only if we can regain some of that pure and innocent faith ... hope and love we had as children ... only then can we accept His invitation: “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” ...

Last week we celebrated our nation’s birth ... with its declarations of ... “nature's God” or “men being created equal and endowed with rights by their Creator”. We are no longer an audacious, youthful nation struggling against all odds to survive. We now stretch from sea to shining sea! We have sent men to the moon! We are the last of the super powers! We are grown up! ... And it often seems like we ... as a nation ... have outgrown these sentiments expressed by the founding fathers. It seems we have become so great and powerful that we no longer **need** ... “a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence”. So ... perhaps this weekend ... we might take a little time to ponder: just **how** ... is that working for us?