

Homily  
Memorial of Sts. Anne & Joachim  
Friday of the 15<sup>th</sup> Week in OT  
July 26, 2024

The philosophy students came to class prepared for their final exam. The professor set a simple wooden chair on his desk and said, "Prove to me this chair doesn't exist." The students were ready with their blank pages and raised pencils when they noticed one student already packing his bag with his paper in hand. He handed his paper to the professor and exited the room. They were all astonished and assumed he had just given up. A week later, the grades were posted and they noticed he received the only "A" with his two-word answer, "What chair?"

We often say, "seeing is believing." We can justify in our minds that what we can't see doesn't exist, but is that logical? We can't see air, but we all breathe. We can't see gravity, but we all stay grounded. I can't see what my wife is thinking, but I know whatever it is, she's right and I'm wrong.

Why do we refuse to see what is right in front of us? Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, "many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it." Matthew 13:17b.

In John's Gospel, Jesus says, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." John 14:9b. Again, in John's Gospel, Jesus says when speaking to His Father, "may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us." John 17:21b.

It is through Jesus and in Jesus we see Jesus in each other. It is in our gift of bread and wine, and with the words of consecration, that Jesus becomes present on this altar. It is through the Eucharist which we will soon receive that we become one with Him and one with each other.

Why can't we see clearly our Lord and Savior in every living creature? It is through the Word Incarnate that everything came into being. It is through the living Son of God that we all share in His divine nature. And our heavenly Father calls us all, in faith, to see with our spiritual eyes and hear with our spiritual ears His divine Word.

Anne and Joachim were childless and saw this as a great misfortune and a sign of shame. They prayed and fasted, trusting in God's mercy. In their faith and through their prayer and fasting, the Lord blessed them greatly, giving them the new Arc of the new Covenant. They saw, in faith, in their spiritual holiness, the blessing God intended for them. They continued, in faith, to pray and fast, until their prayers were answered. They were rewarded, in their faith. How is our faith?

God gave us one Commandment as the greatest of all the commandments, Love Him and love each other as ourselves. How are we doing? In this world of hate and evil, there is good and love, if only we embrace our created goodness and are loving nature. And we do this when we see, with our spiritual eyes, and hear, with our spiritual ears, the God of the Universe in all His creatures and especially in each and every one of us. May we pray, in faith, for our spiritual eyes and ears to be open at all times.