

Once upon a time, king's son went crazy. He thought he was a turkey. He sat under the table without any clothes on, pecking at scraps of food on the floor. No doctor could do anything to help him or cure him. Everyone gave up in despair. And the king was very sad.

One day a Wise Man came and said "I can cure him." And so, what did this Wise Man do? He took off all his clothes, and sat down naked under the table next to the king's son, and pecked at crumbs, too.

The Prince asked him, "Who are you and what are you doing here?"

"What are you doing here?" the Wise Man replied.

"I am a turkey," said the Prince.

"Well I'm also a turkey," said the Wise Man.

So, the two of them sat there together like this for some time, until they got used to each other.

Then Wise Man said to the king's son, "Do you think a turkey can't wear a shirt? You can wear a shirt and still be a turkey." So, the two of them put on shirts.

After a while the Wise Man said to the son, "Do you think if you wear pants you can't be a turkey?" And so, they put on pants.

Piece by piece they put on the rest of their clothes in the same way.

After that, the Wise Man said to the Prince, "Do you think if you eat regular food you can't be a turkey any more? You can eat good food and still be a turkey." So, they ate.

Then he said to him, "Do you think a turkey has to sit underneath the table? You can be a turkey and sit at the table in a chair."

And this was how the Wise Man dealt with the Prince, until in the end the son was completely cured.

Today is the Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time.

In the Gospel, we are told that "with many ... parables [Jesus] spoke the word to [the people] as they were able to understand it."

A parable is a type of analogy. A story meant to explore life and meant to illustrate a universal truth.

Jesus' parables explain the kingdom of God to His listeners. And as followers of Jesus – disciples – baptized into Christ and confirmed in the Holy Spirit – we are called to a royal dignity and to live out our lives in God's kingdom.

Too often, it seems, we forget that we are children of the king. We cast off our royal dignity, and sit around naked on the floor, pecking at whatever scraps are laying around.

In that sense – sin, neglect, apathy, selfishness – anything that takes us away from God and our relationship with God – makes us turkeys.

Yet as children of God, redeemed in Christ, we are called to live in the kingdom as sons and daughters of the king. And too often, we need to be reminded of that, lest we fall away and forget who we are, and forget our Christian dignity.

At every Mass, during the Eucharistic prayer, we hear the words of *anamnesis* – a Greek word meaning “a greater remembering” or a “higher remembering.” The Mass, is a living sign ... a sacred image of the worship at God's altar in heaven. And so, it is a reminder to us of where we are called, where we should be headed ... to the messianic banquet in Heaven.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us recall ... let us recollect ... let us remember – the great Sacrifice of Jesus Christ that brings about our salvation ... and let us not forget the infinite Love of God that desires to save all people. And in this act of worship, let us realize ... who ... we ... truly ... are. The sons and daughters of God the Father, called to a higher dignity, redeemed in the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, and filled with the manifold gifts of the Holy Spirit – so that we might live out the Gospel ... in the world ... in our daily lives.