Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Isaiah 53:10-11

Psalm 33

Hebrews 4:14-16

Mark 10:35-42

When you were growing up, did you ever aspire to be a G.O.A.T.? The letters in G.O.A.T. stand for the Greatest Of All Time. To be expert in what you do and who you are. They say that Lebron James is a G.O.A.T. Tom Brady is a G.O.A.T. With the title G.O.A.T. comes money, prestige, a name in the history books. Maybe even a sneaker named after you.

Well we are sheep. We are the flock of the Good Shepherd. Is Jesus a G.O.A.T.? We think so. But how did Jesus become the greatest of all time? From our readings it meant sacrifice and service.

Our first reading is one of the songs found in the Book of Isaiah – songs of a suffering servant. God was pleased to crush him in infirmity. The will of the Lord God will be accomplished by the servant giving up his life.

Our second reading acknowledges Jesus as our high priest, yes, but this high priest can sympathize with our weakness, tested in every way.

In our Gospel, Jesus tells his followers that they can gain “G.O.A.T. ness” only by drinking from the cup of bitter wine and by being baptized in blood. Say what? “You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

So we as Christians do aspire to be G.O.A.T.s by becoming sheep. Sneakers are not meant to be a status symbol but tools for running around to be of service to others. Our fame is associated by becoming a member of a “Blue Team”. These are the teams that are of service to our Christian community here at Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish.

We have many Blue Teams who are at service to you. There is one I would like to point out to you – our scouts, both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. They have a place in our Allied Society which coordinates all the events here in our parish. For most events the scouts offer to be of service. You see them at service at the pancake breakfast, the pork chop dinner, the rummage sale among other events. They have impressed the members of the Allied Society so much that when the scouts get hammered by a large bill from their corporate offices, the Holy Name and Usher Society and the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality offered to help them offset that bill by donating some funds for that purpose. The Holy Name even sets aside a percentage of the profits from their pancake breakfast to help with sending kids to Summer camp. The least we can do is support the Boy Scouts with their spaghetti breakfast next Saturday and the Cub Scouts with their breakfast at Appleby’s on November 17th to thank them for their service to our community.

We at BMT Parish don’t have prestigious sneakers but we have shirts that are blue that designate that we understand the directives of our High Priest, Jesus Christ – to be servants for one another. We as Christians know in our hearts that we are called to be a blessing to one another.

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have placed our hope in you.