

July 2, 2008  
Wednesday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Amos 5:14-15, 21-24

Psalms 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17

Matthew 8:28-34

*The demons pleaded with him, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go then!" They came out and entered the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned.*

Remember the phrase: Be careful what you ask for? A few years back, I was challenged to think carefully about the focus of my prayers. The question for reflection became, What am I praying for? Was I praying that God would do my will or was I truly praying that I would surrender my will to God. There are a number of prayers of surrender that we can say each day, but the one that I found myself praying each day was the pray adopted by the 12 Step Recovery program. It seems fitting as we all have attachments that get in the way of our complete and total surrender to the will of God. The original prayer written by Reinhold Niebuhr for a sermon in 1934 is,

*God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.*

Throughout the years it has been adapted and expanded. It is this expanded version that spoke to me at that time in my life that I needed to look at the call to surrender my will to God's will. This prayer continues to serve me well for this is an ongoing journey.

God grant me the serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change;  
Courage to change the things I can;  
And wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
Taking, as He did, this sinful world  
As it is, not as I would have it;  
Trusting that He will make all things right  
If I surrender to His Will;  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
And supremely happy with Him  
Forever and ever in the next.