

Guided by God's Word. Memorial of St Jerome Sept. 30th, 2020

We celebrate the memorial of St. Jerome, priest and doctor of the church. St Jerome was an ascetic and he translated the bible from Hebrew and Greek into the Latin version called the Vulgate. Latin was the common language at that time, and it was great accomplishment to have the Bible in the language that everybody could understand. He died in Bethlehem in the year 420 AD at the age of eighty. St Jerome studied the scriptures throughout his life and wrote many biblical commentaries and he is known to have said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." This means that unless we are familiar with what Jesus said and did in the Scripture, we really do not know him.

Through the sacred scripture we are able to understand the path we must follow in order to obtain eternal life. In today's gospel, we have three people who want to follow Jesus and become his disciples. One person said he wants to follow Jesus, but he wants to go first to bury his father and Jesus told him to leave the dead to bury their dead. Another said, "I will follow you wherever you go", but Jesus told him that foxes have holes and birds have nests but Jesus himself has nowhere to lay his head. The 3rd person said he will follow Jesus but wants to go first and say farewell to his family. But Jesus says, "No one who puts his hands to the plough and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God."

As Christians, trying to follow Jesus well is not easy and it is only Jesus who can give us the answers and guidance regarding our obstacles to following him. Job in our 1st reading did not rely on quick answers from his friends but he rather relied on God's wisdom in dealing with his crises. God's word is a light for our path and a lamp for our feet. Like St. Jerome let us totally rely on God's word to deal with crises in our vocation. **Amen. By Fr Emmanuel Subaar**