

hom 6 Easter B 2018

Children's Mass Homily John 15: 9-17

Today is the last day for religious instruction so I direct this sermon to the children of the parish.

This **(afternoon) (morning)** I have a jar of candy here which some people call suckers. You are not supposed to chew them because they are hard --just suck on them. As you can see, they come in many different flavors. There are lemon, cherry, grape, watermelon, orange and butterscotch.

One thing I have noticed is that when you offer to share your suckers with children and allow them to choose the flavor they want, children can be very picky about the flavor they choose. My experience is that when I do this, I almost always end up with butterscotch suckers left over when all the other flavors are gone.

I don't know why so many children won't choose the butterscotch suckers. Maybe it is because the flavor is different from the other candies. Maybe it is because the children don't like the color of the wrapping paper on the butterscotch suckers. Whatever the reason may be, I always end up with butterscotch leftovers. Do you know what I do with the leftover suckers? I eat them myself. You see, I love them all!

Sometimes we treat people the same way some children treat these suckers. When children play games, some children are always the last to be chosen. Maybe it is because they are just a little bit different. Perhaps they have a physical handicap or maybe their skin is a different color. Sometimes for no reason at all children decide they do not like other children, Whatever, the reason might be, some children are like those butterscotch hard candies. They wind up on the bottom of the bag, they wind up left out.

Sadly this isn't just about children because adults can treat other adults in just the same way. They can ignore them or treat them as if they were invisible or don't count.

Have you ever been the one that wasn't chosen? It isn't a very good feeling, is it?

Jesus tells us two really important things in our bible reading today.

1. Jesus said: "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you." There is someone who will always want you to be part of his life. There is someone who calls you his friend. There is someone who knows you and believes in you and thinks you are special. His name is Jesus. Jesus has chosen you.

2. Jesus is asking one thing from his friends. He asks us to "love each other as he loves us." Jesus loves us all! Help Jesus by making every person feel wanted. Help Jesus to let every person know they are chosen.

Whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do for Jesus.

Amen.

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