

Reflections on 17th Sunday of Year 26A.

Mass: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Psalm 118; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52.

Eureka! What a wonderful expression. Apparently from the Greek and uttered by a famous ancient mathematician when he solved a problem. I think that he was having a bath at the time! Something that I never experienced in maths or arithmetic at any time! It does describe beautifully though that wonderful feeling when something new happens to us. A new vision or understanding is like a breakthrough that opens our minds and sometimes our hearts to what is going on within or around us. The one I love the most was falling in love with Italy by falling for the wonderful frescoes of Tuscany, especially Siena and San Gimignano. It opened up a new world of beauty to me, and it touched things in me that I didn't know existed. But then God is like that in our lives as he touches bits of us that we never knew were there. It can be a new level of understanding but from it we must build something new. Sometimes it is how we face the world and sometimes how we deal with our world. A response must come in some way. Maybe this was what Jesus was talking about in making choices and committing all we have to this new way or understanding. God is like that when he touches us in some way. We always remember and it changes our perception or understanding and always invites us on a new journey of faith. The Church is the place to share those experiences so that they can be nurtured and can inspire others and help us to respond. Sharing our faith with each other is so important. We Catholics tend to have a culture of silence, seldom sharing or discussing our faith with each other. It's as if it is personal and secret and we risk ridicule by talking about it. It is a culture that we must change if we want our faith to grow. In a world in which faith is disappearing we need to sustain it by sharing our 'eureka' moments.