

**Going with the Flow**      Twenty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time      Wednesday, September 20, 2017      8:15 AM      1 Tm 3:14-16;      **Lk 7:31-35**      Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, priest, Paul Chong Ha-sang, and Companions, martyrs      (The Lord's will for us is for even a richer, fuller understanding of God, and fuller participation in the nature God.)

**“But wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”**

This little talk is directed to the crowds, not to the disciples, not to the leaders. **It is very important we always note to whom is Jesus speaking.** His words to leaders are sometimes antagonistic, but always informative. His words to his disciples are sometimes very challenging and profound. **His words to the crowds, simple, but arresting.**

Here his arresting comments have to do with how **people tend to be contrary and negative,** and this is a very difficult problem. **People tend to react against what is not usual.** This is actually something to look at and hopefully overcome because we all need to change, and **we cannot change when we are negative.** We have to see why it is that regardless of how well things are going and how blessed we may be in our lives, nonetheless, there is always more. And **the Lord's will for us is for even a richer, fuller understanding of God, and fuller participation in the nature of God.**

This acquires a certain kind of going with the flow. There is a flow in life. St. Paul said, **“Weep with those who weep; rejoice with those who rejoice.”** Even in the Old Testament in the Books of Wisdom “there is a time for everything, says Qoheleth,” **a time for everything. We have to recognize: what's this time for?** It's not always a time for rejoicing. It's not always a time for celebrating, but sometimes that's what's appropriate. Sometimes something else is appropriate. So here it says, “We played the flute for you, but you did not dance.” **Sometimes the flute is playing; we should be dancing** if we go with what is appropriate, what is needed at the moment. But sometimes we let something else take over our own agenda. Our own issues are paramount; they come first, and then we lose out. This is about losing out. **Do we really want to keep losing out at the wonderful potential that every moment is full of?** “We sang a dirge, but you did not weep.” There's a time for sadness. Some of us indulge too much in sadness; some of us run away from sadness. There's a time for sadness. **There's a time for sadness for ourselves, but also for our country and our world, for recognizing how we waste opportunities.** So there is a time and place for everything. “Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.”