

3rd Sunday of Advent “B”
2017

Dennis Hord was the name of the Music teacher when I was in high school. His wife Gerri played the piano for all of his choirs. He was the band teacher also. So, for almost every important event at Ward High School for more than 30 years, Dennis and Gerri were there.

One of the choirs sang at all of the masses that we had – and they were really good. The pep band was there at all the basketball and football games. All pep rallies had band and singers and there was the annual musical variety show that they directed and accompanied. And at every event – people walked away saying how great the students were. How beautiful the singing was – how amazing the band was.

And being part of one of the three choirs – or the band – or the musical or the variety show – and most students checked one of those boxes – being part of that really made you feel important. You felt talented and you felt like you could do anything.

Whenever someone thanked Mr. or Mrs. Hord after a show or a game – they always said things like, “It wasn’t us – these kids are really talented.” “We’re just here – it’s these kids who are special and blessed.” Never once do I remember them taking any credit for the amazing things that happened under their guidance. They are talented – patient – holy people who have spent their lives putting others in the spotlight – as they bowed out themselves.

All of us have had people like that in our lives – people who have let us shine – while they take a back seat. People who have propped us up – so that we would find the confidence – the ability to believe in ourselves. People who have helped us be the people that we are – while never taking any credit for it.

St. John the Baptist was one of those people for Jesus. He spent his whole life making

sure that people would be ready to not just see Jesus – but to know who he was. He made it his life’s work to ready the hearts and minds anyone who would listen – by helping them to open their eyes to God’s love among them.

And when someone tried to give him some credit for his work – he did what he always did and pointed to Christ. “He’s the one that you need to listen to – he’s the one you should follow – he’s the important one – not me.” John’s mission was to open the hearts of others so that God could find a home there.

Mr. & Mrs. Hord did that same thing in their own way to a whole generation of students. Each of us have had parents – family – teachers – coaches and even strangers who have played that role in our lives. People who lift us up – people who help us open our hearts – people whose love for us have opened us to God and his son Jesus.

This is our call too – to be like St. John – to point to the love of God by what we say – how we treat people and how we love. May our lives help all those we meet open their hearts to Christ.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

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