



## ***CALLED TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF JESUS***

Many cultures across the world maintain customs of honoring loved ones who have passed on into eternal life. One of those customs is to keep a small shrine in honor of the dearly departed. It may be a picture, flowers or a lit candle. The shrine reminds the living of where their loved ones are, living life eternal with our loving God; this can be a connection to our past as well as to our future. Mother church teaches that life does not end with death, it changes. There is a beautiful prayer that some faith traditions use to welcome sacred times. One of the closing lines of this prayer is this: "...a noble heritage has been entrusted to you, guard it well." The way we live our lives today may be a guiding light to others.

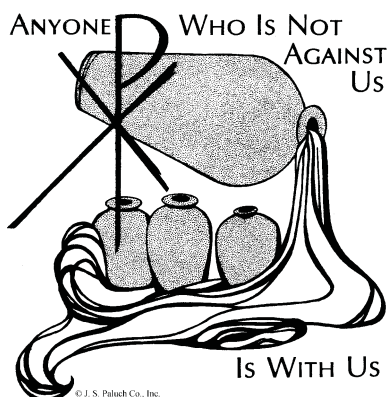
Both the book of Numbers and the Gospel of Mark tell us today that a rich and noble heritage has been entrusted to us. How do we respond?

**The Scriptures inform us that nurturing a good character is more valuable than silver or gold.** We are called to live as loving children of light. Does our daily living reflect that?

**Our Roman Catholic heritage is a rich one, offering us many ways to celebrate and live our lives fully and deeply.** Think of the apostles. They lived their faith, preached the gospel and gave their lives for Christ. The Roman Canon continues to remind us of our "Catholic faith that comes to us from the apostles." Think of the saints who lived lives of prayer. Their prayer gave them the energy to serve others. St. Francis desired only to follow Christ. His prayer gave him the courage to serve lepers. All of us can think of the dedicated lives of parents, grandparents and other important people in our lives. They lived gospel values and transmitted those values to us.

**The autumn season of 2009 is less than a week old.** As the colors and temperatures gradually change around us, the Holy Spirit continually invites us to change ourselves to be better Christians. **It is easy to resist change.** The Scriptures and the sacraments we celebrate together break down that resistance, if we will allow them to. **Followers of "the Way" is how early Christians were identified (Acts 9:2).** Live your life so that the Way of Jesus can be seen in you and around you. **Advent of 2009 is approaching.** How do you plan to end this year of grace and begin the new church year of 2010?

Just as the Spirit came to rest on the followers of Moses and the apostles, the Holy Spirit comes to rest upon every one of us. We are responsible to transmit our way, our noble heritage to others by the example of our daily life. As we enter another season of the year, may the communion we share transform us and make us realize who and what we really are: children of light, children of a loving God.



*Whoever is not against us is for us.....Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48*