

Reflection Tuesday Week 20 – 2022

The gate into Jerusalem called the Needle was a narrow gate that would just allow a camel through providing it was not carrying anything. Today Jesus would say: when we die we take nothing with us. Won't that be a relief?? Just think of it! No more insurance or maintenance worries; no more having to update or renew, no more security or service issues. No wonder it will feel like heaven.

In the days of Jesus, it was commonly believed that the wealthy were those blessed and rewarded by God for keeping the commandments. They were regarded as the good ones in society. Those who had to struggle to survive and make ends meet were being punished for some sin committed by a family member in the past. To be told that the rich would find it very hard to enter heaven went against all that the people believed. But Jesus was very good at challenging the *status quo*!

The current preparation for the Synod of the Laity can be seen as challenging the status quo in the Church. The question raised is: *Is there a better way of being Church in which the laity can make a greater and richer contribution?* Asking the question allows the Holy Spirit to work more effectively in the Church.

Tradition comes from the Latin *traditio* from the verb *trader* meaning to transmit, to hand over, to give for safekeeping. During the birth of the Church all the members were involved in the decision-making. However, this became impossible as the Church family grew in numbers and locations. Latin and Greek were the languages that people spoke generally. Giving the faithful a greater voice in the decision-making of the Church would not be something new but a return to a practice of the past.

A Jesuit, a Dominican, and a Franciscan were debating the greatness of their orders. Suddenly, an apparition of the Holy Family appeared in front of them, with Jesus in a manger and Mary and Joseph praying over him. The Franciscan fell on his face, overcome with awe at the sight of God born in such poverty. The Dominican fell to his knees, adoring the beautiful reflection of the Trinity and the Holy Family. The Jesuit walked up to Joseph, put his arm around his shoulder, and said, *“So, have you thought about where to send him to school?”*