4th Wednesday in Lent
Rolling Meadows - 1975

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

IN NOMINE JESU

St. Augustine once prayed: "O Lord, Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." We were CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE — made to live in an INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP with HIM and with ONE ANOTHER. The fact that we do NOT "LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART, WITH ALL OF OUR SOUL, WITH ALL OF OUR STRENGTH, WITH ALL OF OUR MIND" or "OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELF" is evidence of our SIN and our FALLENNESS. It shows up in how TURNED IN we are upon ourselves — our GREED and SELFISHNESS. It shows up in our NERVES, and TENSIONS, and ANXIETIES. "OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN GOD!"

The man in our film has EVERYTHING MONEY CAN BUY — except PEACE OF MIND. He makes a contract with the DEVIL who promises him peace of mind — if he will answer the question: "HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?" The man could have stayed right there — but instead he tries to get moreand more things! The result is folly — and human folly leads to death — either physical death, spiritual death, or eternal death.

SHOW FILM

"WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSES HIS OWN SOUL?" ..... "NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS!"....."A MAN'S LIFE DOES NOT CONSIST IN THE ABUNDANCE OF THE THINGS HE POSSESSES!" Yet we continue to judge OURSELVES and OTHERS by the NUMBER and QUALITY of POSSESSIONS. We say: "The more a person has, the better off he

is." ..... But then, why are so many well-off people seeking PEACE OF MIND? Why all of the DEPRESSION and FRUSTRATION? Why all of the HEART-ATTACKS and NERVOUS BREAK-DOWNS?

What a STARK CONTRAST there is between our Lord on the Cross and this man in our film! JESUS — the CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE —"BY WHOM ALL THINGS WERE MADE" ----- lived out His life in virtual destitution and poverty. "THE FOXES HAVE HOLES, AND THE BIRDS OF THE AIR HAVE NESTS, BUT THE SON OF MAN HAS NOWHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD." As St. Paul says: "THOUGH HE WAS RICH, YET FOR OUR SAKES HE BECAME POOR, THAT WE THROUGH HIS POVERTY MIGHT BE MADE RICH." Finally He was "DESPISED AND REJECTED BY MEN" and NAILED TO THE CROSS.

Still He remained in a perfect relationship with His HEAVENLY FATHER. His end was NOT the result of an endless rat race --- running, running, running and getting nowhere. As Jesus Himself said: "NO ONE TAKES MY LIFE FROM ME..... I LAY IT DOWN FREELY." But more than that, He had PEACE OF HEART AND MIND --- something the man in the film did NOT have. And because He came to "RECONCILE US TO GOD" — to "BRING US BACK into an INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP with the FATHER" — redeemed, restored, forgiven ----- therefore He can give us "THAT PEACE OF GOD WHICH PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING."..... No wonder we have come to WORSHIP HIM! — Follow Him — take up our own cross!