

So if we exercise our fundamental option – and choose to walk in the light of Christ – in the light of creative altruism rather than in the darkness of destructive selfishness – our life may be lived somewhat like this:

“All of us understood from the earliest age that we were required to use our talents and gifts for the good of others. There was no option. For the gift of being in the world, we had a responsibility to it. My parents constantly reminded us: take nothing for granted, work hard, be grateful.” -Jean Kennedy Smith.

And we might think: easy for her to say, she's a Kennedy.

And I think that's the way a lot of us approach our responsibility as a human being, much less a Christian – let someone else do it. Someone else is so much more talented, gifted, better off financially – than I. If I don't step up, someone else will.

So, yes, Jean Smith was a Kennedy – but how she was called by her parents to live her life was not determined by her being a Kennedy – but by her being a Christian. . .

All of us, if we choose to walk in the light of Christ – walk in the light of creative altruism – must then accept our responsibility to use our gifts and talents for the good of others ---

Whoever loves their life will lose it – whoever serves me, must follow after me.

We should all take nothing for-granted:

-Never assume you are going to have another opportunity to tell your spouse, your children, or your grandchildren you love them: tell them now.

--We should never assume we are going to have tomorrow to be the blessing we are called to be to others today!

--Never assume that we can give God our praise and thanks tomorrow, because we are too busy today.

Whoever loves their life will lose it – whoever serves me must follow after me.

We should all work hard – because all of us have been given gifts and talents, not just for our own benefit, but for the benefit of building the kingdom of God in our midst – what have done, or will you do TODAY, to build the kingdom by your compassion, mercy, forgiveness and acceptance?

Whoever loves their life will lose it – whoever serves me must follow after me.

And we should all be grateful – for God has abundantly blessed each and every one of us – just think of the good life will are all blessed with by being born in the United States!

We also be grateful for our faith and family and friends – and just how are we going to enjoy this wonderful day God has blessed us with today?

Whoever loves their life will lose it – and whoever serves me must follow after me.

You see, my brothers and sisters – we are people of the new covenant – God has placed his law within us – he has written it on our hearts.

Jesus has been the source of our eternal salvation and so now we must serve him by following after him. .

And we must do it – enthusiastically!

Whoever loves their life will lose it – and whoever serves me must follow after me.

So even though we are not a Kennedy – let's realize that for the gift of being in the world – and in the Church – we have a responsibility to it – there is no option. And let's take nothing for granted, work hard, be grateful – all with enthusiasm – for we are on fire with the kingdom of God!