September 26, 2019

Scripture

Luke 9:7-9
Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, “John has been raised from the dead”; others were saying, “Elijah has appeared”; still others, “One of the ancient prophets has arisen.” But Herod said, “John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?” And he kept trying to see him.

Our Scripture Reflection

Herod was more than just curious about who the mystery person was. We know, historically, that he was a paranoid despot who had his own family members put to death because he thought they might overthrow his rule. He will get his wish when the designated time comes, when Jesus enters into His passion. But for now, he wonders. Many people continue to wonder about Jesus in our own day.

Food for your Journey

There is a story that comes from an American visitor who went to Uganda. She found herself listening to a group of Ugandan Christians as they traded stories about the dark and bloody days under Idi Amin. They told story after story of fellow believers who were killed, often in horrible ways, by the ruthless tyrant who was trying to stamp out religious opposition to his regime. But they told these stories with a merriment that was quite puzzling to their American visitor. Finally the American took her host aside and asked him, "Why are these stories of martyrdom being told in such a lighthearted manner?" And the man replied, "You see, it is because Idi Amin didn't know the story."
"The story? What story?" she said. And he answered her, "The story of Christ. Whenever you kill him, he rises again. You can't kill off the body of Christ. Idi Amin thought he could put an end to us. We are laughing because he didn't know the story."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I can never say thank You enough for the many Graces You have given me, especially during my times of trial and hardship. Make me strong in my faith so that I may witness to the many "Herods" out there who are seeking You. Amen