

August 26-27, 2017

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:19-23

Romans 11:33-36

Matthew 16:13-20

It was in 1935 that the Russian Dictator Stalin replied: 'How many divisions has the Pope?' when encouraged to respond to the suffering of the many Catholics throughout Russia and elsewhere in Europe. Our First Reading from Isaiah cautions those in 'political' power (as well as we who sometimes are overwhelmed with our OWN accomplishments) to be mindful that countless dictators, politicians, kings, presidents and assorted rulers have come and GONE (and been forgotten to history) while the voice of God within the Gospels continues to grow and thrive through the centuries. With the near-end of the primary Summer season we are encouraged to mentally and spiritually stand before the unfathomable mystery of God: 'how inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways.' Within the Gospel of Matthew, WE are the ones being asked by Jesus the question: 'Who do YOU say that I am?' Is Jesus real to you? Do you have an ongoing, continual conversation with Father, Son, Holy Spirit? How aligned are your life actions with the guidance of Scripture? If WE were Jesus, what would be OUR response to how we have been living our discipleship with him? Would we be pleased or would we be asking, 'What relationship, what discipleship?' The un-official Summer season is about finished, these are suitable weeks to consider where you have experienced God's grace, how you have been instruments of that grace as well as recipients of it. How have your Summer experiences impacted your conversation with God? As the School Year gets underway along with the assorted projects of Autumn these are some final hours by which to again affirm the hierarchy of your God relationship among the many things with which your life is filled.

On this toasty weekend, thank you for sharing your prayer and presence with our Santa Clara community. With St. Francis and other schools now back in session, please be mindful out on the roads and when approaching assorted schools...not only to protect the students...but to avoid any tickets as well. Next week being the Labor Day holiday, please be careful in your celebrations. On the following weekend, September 9-10, our Santa Clara Ministry Fair will be in full swing with opportunities for you to learn about our different ministries, organizations and outreaches AND to consider how you might become more fully integrated within our parish life. Bulletins are available as you exit, as you catch up on parish news, please remember that you are loved. FKB