

February 11-12, 2017

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 15:15-20

First Corinthians 2:6-10

Matthew 5:20-37

Nowhere in the California Penal Code does it give permission for anyone to run a RED LIGHT. Yet, is there anyone among us, if you were rushing your child or spouse to the hospital because of a life-threatening emergency, would not stop at a red light....look all around...and if it was safe....then RUN IT so as to get to the hospital faster? I am pretty sure every cop would not only give us a pass but probably provide us with an emergency escort if they were to have intercepted our errant behavior. As Americans we live within plenty of laws, rules and proper procedures. As people of faith we build our relationships with God within a complex web of rules. 'laws' and 'commandments'. Some are situational to a particular time and place 'You shall not covet your neighbor's ox or donkey', others are still applicable for our own time and circumstances: do not swear, honor your mother and father, do not steal, keep holy the Sabbath, do not bear false witness, have no other Gods but God alone. While both our civil laws as well as our religious laws are primarily meant as GUIDEPOSTS-BOUNDARIES for living in community with others...the laws/rules do NOT fill in all the blanks...that is left to our own devices...the necessity for the SPIRITUAL WISDOM mentioned in our Second Reading. For example: the Commandments urge us to HONOR our mothers and fathers....but we are not told HOW TO honor them (or when to prudently honor/love from a necessary safe distance.) The challenge of growing as people of faith is to understand that GOD is NOT a set of rules or laws...God is a person, an entity, with whom we are encouraged to enter into a relationship. One person's relationship will not develop the same as another persons'...how one person interacts and values God will be different from others. Understanding and valuing the 'truths' that cross all lines requires a lot of time, patience and humility...not to mention interaction with the varied peoples, cultures, faiths and backgrounds of those with whom we share the world. Laws are not bad things....but sometimes even laws must give sway to more important truths...and their figuring out how to apply them....and that is the great adventure of discernment into which we are invited.

Thank you joining us here at Santa Clara as we give praise to God and discern the best way to build our relationships with him. LAST WEEKEND was our BIG Pastoral Services Appeal Pledge opportunity and **we continue to accept** the envelopes and your 10-month 2017 pledge. Please remember, this is a task for our **entire Santa Clara community**....not just a few people doing a lot...but EVERYONE doing what each CAN....be it big or small....to claim ownership for supporting our Santa Clara home and our parish family of faith. Next weekend is President's Weekend, a three-day holiday...if you are traveling, please come home safe and refreshed. **NEXT SUNDAY-the 19th, starting with the 12noon Mass is our FAMILY FAITH DAY-LEAD ME HOME** Lenten experience offered by our Family Faith Formation...inclusive of lunch right after Mass. Please see the Bulletin for more info...as well please note the invite to Seminarian Daniel's upcoming **TRANSCEND-Men's Series** starting on the afternoon of the 26th. As the hanging garden in the middle of the room is meant to remind you, Valentine's Day is Tuesday...but ...you are loved each and every day. FKB