

February 3-4, 2018
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2018 PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL PLEDGE WEEKEND
Job 7:1-7 **First Corinthians 9:16-23** **Mark 1:29-39**

It goes without saying that FULL healing and restoration to complete health is the most desirable outcome when stricken with illness or disability. That being said, finding an inner strength and resolve by which to face each day WITH an illness or disability is a precious gift not always in vast supply. Thus, when we hear Jesus cured 'MANY', that implies he did not cure 'ALL'...toggled together with Jesus' statement a short while further, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come...'; the miracles and healing emphasize his power and ability....but the PURPOSE of Jesus is to make his presence known and invite people into relationship with him. This is an important revelation...the RELATIONSHIP with Jesus is of greater value than his miracles. While a resolution of whatever is paining us is always sought, it is the RELATIONSHIP with JESUS that allows us to get up each day and go about our lives even when we may have physical, emotional or relational pain or distress. Perhaps a bit self-serving considering what we do this weekend....BUT.....as a further example, this weekend being our PSA Pledge Commitment opportunity, it is helpful to see how the grace of our relationships with Jesus has so permeated our community that we have been able to grow and thrive....EVEN WITH JUST A HALL in which to celebrate our spiritual gatherings. Obviously a permanent Church and Youth Ministry Facility would be MOST EXCELLENT...and it is that for which we strive...but our SPIRIT is not defined just by a building...but by whom we ARE BECOMING. Can we go on forever with just a Hall? Not really, NO. It limits our ability to grow, it hinders our capacity to fully celebrate our Sacramental lives and it implies we lack the resolve and ability to complete what was begun in 2001. The GRACE of our relationships with Jesus is what has enabled us to become who we are today...and it is this GRACE that impels us forward...pledge by pledge, sacrifice by sacrifice, so as to be all that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are calling us to be.

Thank you for sharing this SUPER WEEKEND with our Santa Clara community. Thank you as well for your willingness to commit to a pledge that will start to generate the \$13 million required to complete our DREAM of a permanent Church and Youth Ministry facility. What is of UTMOST importance is that this effort be supported by ALL our community...it is not about a FEW people doing a lot...but a LOT of people each doing what they can. Not to sound crass but no pledge can be too much, nor can any pledge be too little...as long as each pledge is sincere and comes with the prayerful intention of completing our dream. While the PSA grabs all the attention today, there is plenty of other stuff happening so please take a Bulletin with you on your way home and whether you soar with eagles or consider yourself a patriot, remember, you are loved. FKB