

**July 1-2, 2017**  
**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**1776 - 2017**  
**241<sup>st</sup> Birthday USA**

**Second Kings 4:8-16**

**Romans 6:3-11**

**Matthew 10:37-42**

By now, those escaping for a multi-day Independence Weekend holiday have fled the Canyon; the highways leading to Newport and Huntington are crammed and the Honda inflatable eagle is just as prominent as always. For those of us lingering 'at home', we benefit from a whole lot of wisdom and insight into the benefits of associating with Jesus as his disciples. Having a variety of different law enforcement professionals as parishioners, I always take comfort by their presence at different Masses for the simple knowledge that they will bring their professional skills to bear if a need arises. In the same way, having medical professionals attending Mass provides an extra measure of safety for those who might experience a medical emergency, having some professional on-site care is highly comforting while waiting for the ambulance. Along this vein of thought this weekend we are reminded by Jesus of the BONUSSES of associating with him: \*Whoever loses their life, for my sake, will find it. \*Whoever receives me, receives the one who sent me. \*Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. \*Whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink, will surely not lose their reward. While some look at a relationship with God only as the gateway to heaven at the end of physical life, there are tangible benefits in the here and now...first and foremost being able to avail of the wisdom, guidance and insight offered by the Holy Spirit for use within our daily lives. Not trying to be a Debbie-downer when it comes to vacations, still, when one is in close relationship with Jesus, our refreshment, renewal and depth of adventure can be right close to home and not requiring long drives or expensive investments. Good relationships are wonderful to fathom and there is none deeper than a relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The sights, smells and flavors of SummerFest have been wafted away by the afternoon breezes and July opens before us. Thank you for coming and sharing this Summer weekend with our Santa Clara Community. This weekend we are accepting the UNIVERSAL CHURCH Collection, a combination of what used to be the individual Peter's Pence and Catholic Relief Services collection. Thank you for your consideration and generosity. The Bulletin awaits you with news of assorted other parish happenings. As you celebrate the USofA these days, play safe, enjoy the food and don't forget to continue to ask God to help us follow the blessings he continues to shower on our country and whether by the dawn's early light or the rockets red glare, please remember that you are loved. FKB