

July 22-23, 2017

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13-19

Romans 8:26-27

Matthew 13:24-43

While just barely past the Solstice initiation of Summer, assorted educators and schools are rousing themselves for a rapidly approaching fresh school year. Classrooms are being cleaned, materials ordered, supplies stockpiled and lists of new students being disseminated to teachers. Some students are unknown to the educators, some youth/children come with whatever reputation they have developed in their matriculation from lower grades. Within thousands of classrooms teachers will soon gaze out on a new mix of bright and well behaved students....scattered among whom will be a few requiring greater educational effort and patience and some who will sorely test the disciplinary rules of teachers and school systems. One classroom yet a whole mélange of different types and levels of students. So it is in our neighborhoods, towns, states, countries and world. A full mix of personalities, talents, plants, flowers and weeds. The vast creative grace/power of God brings to life billions and billions of humans, many of them bright, creative and anxious to offer their unique gifts to society. Mixed in amongst them are those with alternative abilities as well as some who, through genetics or unfortunate early circumstances will wreak havoc among society. The why's and what's of how these mixtures are brought into being by God are not clearly answered by Jesus; as this weekend's Gospel says...weeds sometimes grow among the fields planted with good seed. How will God separate the useful from the chaff; will there be a final accounting to filter the good from the bad? The Gospel of Matthew implies that there will be...but in the meantime we are called to simply acknowledge how things are....and leave final resolutions to God....for this weekend does not speak at length of God's mercy toward those who 'finally get it together', an individual's capacity for regret/sorrow/change and even repentance. This weekend's parable does not invite us to spend a lot of time parsing or making distinctions, nor to toil at understanding how one person's darkness can inspire goodness and grace to flow from another, how tragedy can give birth to renewal and fresh directions. Nope...this weekend we are offered the simple reminder that in the end, God will call all to himself. In the meantime, our task is to be the BEST we can be and stop worrying about things we can't control (nor even understand.)

Thank you for sharing this warm July weekend with our Santa Clara community. Fr. Rudy Aluman is presenting our Mission Appeal presentations this weekend on behalf of his home Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga in Ghana. Your kindness and generosity at the conclusion of Mass will be appreciated. Next weekend our St. Vincent de Paul outreach team will be distributing backpacks with the intention of YOU having the opportunity to fill them with school supplies and returning them for distribution to assorted students in need. Thank you again for your kindness to the hundreds of students who will benefit from your care and generosity. Our High School Youth Leadership will be on Retreat next weekend, please keep them in your hearts as they open themselves to the graces of the Holy Spirit to assist Kirsten in facilitating the upcoming year of Youth Ministry. The Bulletin has other news of approaching events and opportunities, please take one with you and remember, you are loved. FKB