

July 29-30, 2017
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Kings 3:5-12 Romans 8:28-30 Matthew 13:44-52

*All that glitters is NOT gold.
Everything we want is NOT necessarily of value.
The things WE want are not necessarily what God hopes we will want.*

From childhood 'wishing upon a star' to the imaginary rubbing of the magical lantern to obtain three wishes, most of us are indoctrinated to strive for what we WANT, for what we DESIRE. Contrasted with Solomon's request of God to be 'given an understanding heart to serve/judge God's people and to distinguish right from wrong' our frequent prayers to God can be embarrassing: 'Oh God, let my team win....let me win the dance competition...let me win the lotto, let me get a good parking space, let me get into the fraternity/sorority, etc. etc.' With millions of people starving, with millions of global refugees seeking safety/fresh beginnings, with countless elderly wondering if their savings will suffice for retirement, with countless relationships in painful disarray, with potential international conflict seemingly just around the corner, yet we prioritize what WE WANT at the MOMENT to be of surpassing value and importance to the God of the Universe? As July huffs and puffs its way into August, our Scripture readings challenge us to be as wise as Solomon or the merchant reviewing his pearls or the fisherman examining his catch....to seek the GREATER GOOD and stop worrying about the incidentals of the present moment....to stop and MEASURE our immediate desire with what God probably would like us to want and seek. How will whatever it is we are seeking/asking of God make the world better? Will it put food on a hungry person's table? Will it restore someone's faith in strangers? Will it comfort someone bereft of hope? Will it console the bereaved? **WILL IT DO SOMETHING FOR OTHERS...OR** are we the primary beneficiaries of whatever we are asking of God? **IS IT SOMETHING WE WANT JUST BECAUSE WE WANT IT?**

Like every month before, July has sped past and we find ourselves on this final weekend preparing to welcome August, which is walking up the footpath to our doors. Nonetheless, thank you for sharing this weekend and Mass with our Santa Clara community. Our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry is distributing empty BACKPACKS after all the Masses in hopes that you will fill them with school supplies and return them next weekend or no later than the 12th/13th. They will be brought over to the school children of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parochial School as well as a few institutions here locally...please get them back to us either next weekend or by the 12th/13th as school is quick to resume for many students. Fr. Rudy Preciado will be in residence for the next chunk of weeks as both I and Fr. Seamus are away on our vacations...please welcome him with your usual warmth and love. The Bulletin has other news that may be of interest for you so please take a copy home....and remember, you are loved. FKB