

July 8-9, 2017

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zechariah 9:9-10

Romans 8:9-13

Matthew 11:25-30

For some, their image of God is of a stern judge JUST WAITING for us to screw up. For others, God is a set of doctrinal teachings to which their life needs to be adhered. For still more, God is a trophy, won by following all the rules and out of reach to those who fail to measure up. Most certainly, GOD, has been used as a threat, an enticement, a reward, a final arbiter and a punishment. Yet, on this early July weekend Jesus reminds us in the Gospel passage from Matthew that he sees himself as 'meek and humble of heart.' Through the Prophet Zechariah we hear the word MEEK used once again as GOD is portrayed as a peacemaker, banishing the bow and chariot (weapons of war) from among his people. Following up on the imagery of ongoing and constant CONVERSATION with God (from FKB homilies of two weeks ago), Auxiliary Bishop Barron of Los Angeles shared this blog post as he prepares to give a retreat to the Priests of Dublin: ***'Drawing from the writings of Padre Luigi Giussani and others, Pope Francis emphasizes that the single most important feature of Christianity is a personal friendship with the Lord Jesus. The Christian faith is not a philosophy or a social theory or an ideology, but rather a living relationship with Jesus. Therefore, I have told the priests of Dublin, make Christ the center of your lives and let every aspect of your life and ministry revolve around your friendship with the Lord.'*** Holding tight to the reminders offered by Pope Francis that God is a WHO and not a WHAT, how is your PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with the MEEK and HUMBLE of HEARTED Jesus going? How regular and varying is your daily conversation with him? Do you actually share your heart or just perform devotions and rituals? Too often we tend to think of God as someone else has described him rather than encountering him ourselves....and allowing ourselves to be surprised by what we discover.

As our Santa Ana Canyon sizzles, thank you for coming and sharing this weekend with our Santa Clara community. A reminder, if you are new to our community, and intend to stay, please make sure you complete a Registration Form, available at the entrances/exits. Registration not only ensures you will receive our occasional mailings but opens the door to you for complete participation within our Sacramental programs and ministries. Next weekend 49 of our Married Couples are journeying out to the desert for our Married Couples Retreat...please keep them, Mary and Frank Chavez (the retreat directors), me and Seminarian Michael and Seminarian Cheyoon in your prayers....and....remember that you are loved. FKB