

**November 4-5, 2017**  
**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Malachi 1:14-2:2      First Thessalonians 2:7-13    Matthew 23:1-12**

Charlatans...meaning frauds, quacks, counterfeit, swindlers...NOT REAL. Over these last years in which we have hosted Seminarian interns, I (FKB) remind them, on multiple occasions, that YOU, 'the people of God', see EVERYTHING. You see how we priests/deacons/seminarians interact with each other...you determine from what you see if we get along and care for each other or if we are distant and uncaring. You observe if the priests/seminarians in the parish participate (or not) with the set up and take down of assorted events; if the priest is willing to get his hands dirty, if he is a man of and for the people...or if he thinks rather highly of himself...there is an expression some priests actually use: 'these hands were made for chalices not callouses.' Pope Francis has spoken loud and clear in regards to priests who see Priesthood as an exalted position, encouraging those clerics to get down into the streets and homes where their people dwell and get dirty and tired while ministering among and to them. BUT priests are not the only ones who might be charlatans...sometimes it may be the people who reliably receive Eucharist each weekend but put their faith on hold during the rest of the week in all their encounters with people in different circumstances. For charlatans, charity and compassion are fine topics for Sunday...but not to be actually lived in real world situations. With the end of this liturgical year almost here, our Scriptures take on their annual urgency of encouraging us to consciously live our faith, to OWN our discipleship of Jesus and to put into action within our daily lives...OUTSIDE OF MASS...all that the Gospel passages of this past year have tried to teach us. Charlatan is a fancy name for a hypocrite or a swindler...but no matter how fancy the word...being a charlatan is being a low-life deceiver...and who wants to be known as that or look in the mirror and see one staring back?

Thank you for sharing these first days of November with our Santa Clara community as we gather for praise and worship. We continue to accept sign-ups for blood donations this weekend for Wednesday's blood drive...thank you for your willingness to give a pint. 79 of our High School youth are on Retreat this coming weekend in Big Bear, please keep them in your prayers and as you start your early preparations for Thanksgiving, please know that you are loved. FKB