

**October 21-22, 2017**

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Isaiah 45:1-6**

**Thessalonians 1:1-5**

**Matthew 22:15-21**

God's existence is not dependent on our awareness or acknowledgment of him. Whether we are people of faith or not, does not in any way negate the presence and power of God. An attribute of PRIDE, denial of any power other than our own, from our Roman Catholic perspective, a full and satisfying life requires EYES OF FAITH by which to live a life in harmony with God while simultaneously existing as citizens of a diverse society. Being disciples of Jesus does not require us to establish a Theocracy, history has already taught us that does not work well...for us Christians in the same way that the terrorists distort their purported Muslim faith. Yet, the presence and grace of God is what imbues all leadership with strength, viability and longevity. In the reading from Isaiah we are reminded of these things: 'For the sake of Jacob...I have called you by name, giving you a title, though you knew me not.' The Gospel portrays cloying 'politicians' of Jesus' time seeking to ensnare him in the politics vs. theology drama of that age. Jesus shrewdly sidesteps their entrapment efforts by acknowledging that BOTH civil government and FAITH are necessary parts of a balanced communal life. In our own day and age this drama continues; it is not unusual for purported 'people of faith', following their successful elections, to pursue policies and laws that abandon any real pretense of honoring God, particularly evident when the poor, abandoned and helpless are ignored. In surprising ways, those who do not use their religious affiliations as vote-getting promotions can be the kindest, most even handed of people...thus doing the promptings of God without that being their primary intentions. 'Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar...and to God what belongs to God.' As we go about our daily lives, debates and dialogues pertaining to the issues of our own time...is there anything that does not ultimately belong to God? Is there any issue or topic where the quiet wisdom and promptings of the Gospel do not belong?

With scarcely more than a week remaining until the tricksters and treaters claim their day, Thank You for joining with our Santa Clara community for this Autumn weekend of worship. **With All Saints Day and All Souls Day approaching (November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>) you may wish to enroll your own beloved deceased family and friends in the special November Masses, envelopes for that purpose are at the entrances/exits.** This weekend we accept a SECOND Collection in acknowledgment of the END of the 'Mission Appeal Season' on this World Mission Sunday. Insuring that the Diocese has funds available to assist the wide variety of Appeals that come in throughout the year, your generosity is, as always, appreciated. Please take a Bulletin for further news of parish events and activities...and, no matter what the coming week may bring, please remember that you are loved. FKB