

October 28-29, 2017

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 22:20-26

First Thessalonians 1:5-10

Matthew 22:34-40

If a child in 3rd grade were to tell us, 'I have no desire to learn anything more, I am content with all that I know now...' we would smile and laugh at the silliness of the statement. While acknowledging that learning NEW things is hard and forces us to stretch and grow, we would tell the child that they can NEVER stop learning...otherwise they will start to lose what they have already learned and will start to emotionally, mentally and even physically, die. With but a handful of weeks remaining in this Liturgical Year, this weekend's Scriptures direct our eyes OUTWARD from ourselves...to remember that we are PART of God's creation...not the whole of it. We live amid dark voices who tell us to turn inward, to rebuff those who are not like ourselves, to be afraid of the stranger and to think only of our own needs and wants. Fear mongering is nothing new, even here within our own USofA we have periodically had those who encouraged us to be afraid, spy on our neighbors, shun those who flee oppression/war and doubt that God's grace, image and likeness can be within people different from ourselves. 'You shall not molest or oppress an alien, you shall not wrong any widow or orphan, you shall not act like an extortioner...' ...summed up within the Gospel of Matthew: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Living as we do within a country of 320 million people and a world population of 7.6 billion, it is easy to see how the temptation to withdraw into ourselves can be strong...yet the voice of Jesus calls us out of ourselves, to continually see ourselves as gifted SO AS TO BE GIFT for the rest of the world. Jesus did not die upon the Cross just for us....but for EVERYBODY, especially those who have nothing more than the ability to cling to their own crosses. As is evident with our charitable responses whenever called upon to help, there is GREAT goodness within us...but the sowers of hate seek whatever cracks they can find so as to plant the seeds of Satan. We can not become the third grader who does not want to learn anything more or become anything other than what they are...these are the days when, trusting that God dwells within and around us, that we SHINE as sources of generosity, mercy, forgiveness, charity and kindness...for as it is said elsewhere in Scripture, 'the measure with which we measure, will be measured back to us.'

Thank you for spending this wonderful late October day with our Santa Clara community. **You are reminded of THIS Tuesday's 5pm Vigil Mass for All Saints Day as well as the usual 8:30am Mass on Wednesday and the 9:30am School Mass to which any/all are welcome.** Envelopes are available at the exits/entrances for you to enroll your deceased family and friends in the November All Souls Masses, please get them back to us promptly before Thursday. **Don't forget...the CLOCKS FALL BACK one hour next weekend as Daylight Savings Time comes to an end...**plan accordingly for next Sunday (or avoid worrying by coming to Saturday evening Mass!) Watch out for the goblins, tricksters, black cats and whatever else may be roaming the streets on Halloween...and please remember, you are loved. FKB