

October 7-8, 2017
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 4:6-9 Matthew 21:33-43

The DELETE button is a marvelous invention. One can only imagine how many relationships have not been ruined because people chose to hit delete rather than send an ill-advised letter or note. Our wine motivated texts can simply disappear before they hit the eternal internet. DELETE allows our fractured ideas to be quickly replaced with more manageable words and concepts. With the help of science we can perhaps see a divine 'delete' button being used when the dinosaurs were killed off 65 million years ago...allowing mammals...and us...to evolve. Perhaps a 'delete' button of sorts has been in use as God allows our horrible wars, plagues and human-induced ravages to occur so that we might come to our senses? Regardless of how we might view or label it, this weekend's Scripture speaks of God being willing to DELETE what is not working and replacing it with something more in tune with his own divine plans. How this might be playing out in our own day and age is something that requires eyes of faith and a willingness to discern if we ourselves might be part of the problem or part of the solution....and most of us will automatically presume (rightly or wrongly) that we are on the side of righteousness and blessed by God. With seven weeks remaining of this Liturgical Year, these closing Scriptures are meant to shake us from whatever complacency into which we might have settled. Last weekend's Gospel had Jesus referencing 'prostitutes and tax collectors' as those entering the 'Kingdom of God' ahead of the spiritual elite...and he does not say 'ex-prostitutes or ex-tax collectors.' If this is meant to be confusing sting, it is and it does. No quick or easy answers this weekend...just a reminder that God does indeed have plans for his creation...and our task is to, with mercy, compassion and generosity of spirit strive to see and be open to what God really wants and not just what we think God SHOULD want.

While subtle and nuanced, even here in Orange County Autumn is palpable. Thank you for sharing this Autumn weekend with our Santa Clara community. With NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14th being our Savor the Night event, this is the final opportunity to purchase your reservation to attend and enjoy this wonderful night of food, beverage, music and camaraderie. Also, please note that the 5pm Mass next Saturday will be celebrated up at St. Francis School....and there are NO CONFESSIONS. Thanks to all who participated and attended last Sunday's Children/Family Faith Formation Fall Social...it was fabulous because of YOU!!! Please take a Bulletin with you on your way home so that you don't miss out on other events drawing near and please remember, you are loved. FKB