

September 16-17, 2017

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:30-28

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35

Not a few have spoken of the horrific 'grace' bestowed by Hurricane Harvey upon our highly politicized National dialogue. Are you for the confederates or against the confederates, for the Nazis or against the Nazis, love immigrants or despise immigrants????????; months of Spring and Summer have been divisively ruined by the creeping spread of pro & con....along with the complete dismissal of entire groups of people based on single issues. Then the winds began to spin and Hurricane Harvey smacked into the Gulf coast. Suddenly Americans were neighbors again: Muslims, Christians, Jews and atheists motoring boats to stranded strangers, carrying elderly and infants alike to safety, helping each other find shelters and then assisting with carting out flooded belongings to the trash heaps. No questions were asked and smiles, gratitude and plenty of tears were exchanged. The political rhetoric of the coffee cafe or barbershop were forgotten when whole communities were being washed away. **'Wrath and anger are HATEFUL THINGS, yet the sinner hugs them tight,'** says the Book of Sirach. **Forgiveness, charity and compassion are mocked** by those that like to inflame people for personal gain and power. Getting people to distrust and hate each other plays on the very fears, which, if we faced them together, would wither and melt like snow in warm sun. **The Body of Christ is composed of every HUMAN BEING**....some just don't yet know they are a part of it. The Body of Christ is not a club, it is not a political party, a single religious faith, denomination or social institution. **It is the image of humanity as envisioned by God the Father when he set about creating humanity.** In the wisdom of God we each possess gifts and strengths needed by others, we each need what others possess. In order to be whole we must admit we individually are JUST A PART. No one of us is complete without each other.....'hate not your neighbor' (Sirach) and remember, 'whether we live or die, we are the Lord's (Romans).

The last weekend of Summer being almost depleted, thank you for spending it with our Santa Clara community. Please note the advertisements for **SAVOR THE NIGHT** approaching on **Saturday, October 14th**...please make your reservations early to insure you are part of our growing Autumn night of food, beverage, music and camaraderie. Reservations can be made on the website or at the after-Mass sales tables. Please check the Bulletin for other events coming up, particularly our Children's/Family Faith Formation Fall Social on Sunday, October 1st. With one month of daylight savings time remaining, please remember that you are loved. FKB