

**September 9-10, 2017**  
**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Ministry Fair Weekend**  
**Patriot Day - Commemoration of 9/11**  
**Ezekiel 33:7-9      Romans 13:8-10      Matthew 18:15-20**

*Can you lend me a hand? I need a little help tying this bow, can you put your finger right here?  
Excuse me, can you reach that higher shelf for me? If ALL of us push real hard we can move  
this rock! We need blood, can you give a pint? The city is flooded, can you help?*

Day in and day out we seek and accept help from one another. Perhaps it is picking up an item dropped by a stranger, holding the door for someone, tutoring a fellow employee in the intricacies of IT or even donating, money, blood, bone marrow or perhaps even a kidney to help someone live or rise above their present struggle. While some are overwhelmed and seek escape from our throbbing COMMUNAL networks, we human beings are social creatures...our entire society is crafted on millions of people each doing their part to keep our cities, schools, factories, stores, ships, planes and infrastructures functioning and thriving. Within our FAITH community as disciples of Jesus we are reminded on this September weekend that we belong to a CHURCH...that we are stronger, holier, humbler, smarter and kinder when we tie ourselves together within our Church communities. Jesus does NOT call us to be RUGGED INDIVIDUALS in the matters of faith....he invites us to join together, to STRUGGLE together in the building of his Church. This being our Ministry Fair weekend, we need look no further than this celebration of Mass....the smooth functioning of which comes about through the involvement and sacrifices of many people. It is only through the commitment of hundreds of volunteers that Santa Clara de Asis is as vibrant and alive as we are. Could we do better? Of course....but that means MORE people need to step forward and genuinely and selflessly offer themselves in service. When we see the SAME faces at every Mass helping out, it is a pretty sure sign that more people are needed within that ministry....so that we see DIFFERENT faces each weekend. This being the opportunity to commemorate the tragic memories of 9-11...let us not forget the devastation and darkness caused by the 19 terrorists who banded together to commit their dark deeds....countered by the MILLIONS of people who rallied to support the survivors, dig in the rubble, feed and comfort the first responders, donated money, blood and prayers...so that the darkness perpetrated by the 19 would be countered by the overwhelming LIGHT of goodness. When people unite themselves....either great evil or great good can occur. To which do we individually hear Jesus calling us to join?

As the final days of Summer are slipping past, **Thank You** for coming and being a part of our Santa Clara Community for our weekend Masses. By just glancing about you can discern that these Masses happen because of the contribution of time and energy by many people. When you hear of our outreach to Immaculate Heart of Mary, the feedings at Catholic Worker, our Faith Formation efforts, Liturgical ministries of Lector, Server, EM, Youth and Music Ministries...everything happens because of the willingness of people to contribute their time and energy to make our programs and outreaches viable. As a parish, we are only as strong as the commitment of our people to bring Santa Clara to life. Outside in the parking lot ALL of our ministries, outreaches and social organizations are available for your perusal and....HOPEFULLY....participation. Please come on out and take a look....and perhaps be surprised at how your life may be surpassingly enriched by giving of your time and

energies. As you relish these early September days, please remember that you are loved.  
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