

**June 16-17, 2018**

**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Father’s Day Weekend**

**Ezekiel 17:22-24**

**Second Corinthians 5:6-10**

**Mark4:26-34**

All it takes is a teensy-weensy too much salt for a dish to taste tooooooo salty. Just a tiny piece or two of stray tuna can make the whole refrigerator reek. A few milligrams of venom from the Belcher Sea Snake can kill over 1000 people. One person with a little bit of relationship with Jesus Christ can change history. Sometimes forgetting the promise of Jesus to Peter that: ‘On this rock I will build my Church and the jaws of death will not prevail against it’, the global dispersal of our Christian understanding of God can ebb and flow to different degrees through the centuries. In this week’s Gospel from Mark, Jesus speaks of the INTENSITY and POWER of just a ‘mustard seeds’ worth of faith. Rather than getting worked up over whether our Catholic-Christian faith is dying off, what is more worthy of consideration is whether we create and overly personalize our own variation of Christianity. Perhaps forgetting that Jesus sacrificed his life for ALL humanity (we do NOT belong to a club!), in our present era we see plentiful examples of assorted individuals and even entire communities strongly proclaiming their love for Jesus while equally defaming the people with whom they disagree or want to excise from their world. Inclusive of the LGBTQ community, Muslims, non-believers, those in prison, immigrants who have sought life within the United States without having gone through the legal process and sometimes just people who are ‘different’ than themselves, these individuals are written off by some, even as they loudly praise and thank God for their own righteousness. That the ‘small mustard seed of faith’ might be alive and growing within these ‘excised people’ is incomprehensible to those of showy-faith. As is evident from even a casual glance at our physical environment, the world is DIVERSLY-diverse in the extreme...and God’s grace exists within it all. Our task is to not limit nor deny the ability of God to be in all of his creation but rather to seek it out, even in circumstances that challenge us, and help it grow. That God is present within our world is absolutely TRUE...both in those who struggle to stay within their bubbles of belief and for those who have heard the voice of God in their different circumstances. If only we could stop judging, measuring, condemning and hoarding and rather, welcome, embrace, share, support and celebrate what God is evidently doing...oh, what a world it could (someday will) be.

On this final weekend of Spring, thank you for sharing this weekend with our Santa Clara community. At our 5pm Mass we give homage to a handful of our High School graduates, especially: Avery, Amanda, Adam, Jillian, Michael, Erik, Joshua, Mathew, Emily, Adrian, Gabriel, Natalie, Katelyn. WELL DONE young men and women...congratulations on this part of your journey...and know that our Santa Clara family is praying you along the path to your next destination...go forward into your future with our love! Please remember you are invited to Deacon-Elect Michael’s and Deacon-Elect Daniel’s ordination to the Diaconate NEXT weekend at St. Columban’s Church in Garden Grove at 10am...and then to join in our celebration of Michael’s accomplishment at the 10am Sunday Mass the next day (Daniel will celebrate with us on July 15<sup>th</sup>.) Have a GREAT weekend and remember, you are loved. FKB

