

September 1-2, 2018
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Labor Day Holiday
Deuteronomy 4:1-8 **James:1:17-27** **Mark7:1-23**

Looks can be deceiving. Sometimes the nicest looking people have the nastiest attitude, the most closed of minds and the hardest of hearts while those that look down and out, befuddled or impoverished are the kindest, most generous and compassionate of people. Occurring as they do on our LABOR Day weekend, our Scripture readings invite us for a deeper reflection on HOW WE IDENTIFY OURSELVES; is it by what we do....or by whom we ARE? Living within our American system we can fall into the trap of identifying ourselves by what we do for a living, how we earn our money and how 'prestigious' of a position we hold in our work-a-day world. Even when it comes to faith, the question is put to us, within the Letter from James: 'Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.' It is one thing to COME TO MASS... honoring an obligation...it is another thing to allow the Mass to transform us from the inside so that we slowly become different people because of what we are experiencing, hearing and digesting. Our true relationship with God is not determined by how reverently we consume the consecrated host but rather by how we put into action compassion, forgiveness, BIGNESS of mind toward others, 'caring for the orphan and widow (and alien) among us' and being careful to NOT equate faith with politics, which can devolve into a 'we versus them' mentality. In God's eyes, we are all on the same playing field and our true value, worth and identity is how radically we open ourselves to become LIKE JESUS....and not like those who talk a lot about Jesus while living their ego driven lives.

Thank you for joining with our Santa Clara family as we pause from our labors on this Labor Day holiday. May these days of rest (?) be beneficial for you as you prepare to again assume the responsibilities of the coming months. Our LAST La Cena is quickly drawing near, September 15th...please make your reservations promptly so that we have adequate space prepared (remember, there are no last minute ticket opportunities 'at the door'.) We welcome the Fathers of **The Disciples of Mary** among us this weekend as they share their stories of work within the Missions, your generosity and kindness in support of their efforts is appreciated. As you rest or as you try to catch up on delayed 'honey-do' projects, please remember, you are loved. FKB