

September 29-30, 2018

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Numbers 11:25-29

James 5:1-6

Mark9: 38-48

My tricycle is bigger than yours! My house is better than yours! My Mercedes is better than your Ford! My God is better than your God!

Childish boastings emerging from human insecurities, they become sadly ridiculous when reinforced and embraced by adults. This weekend's Scripture selections, derived from millennia-honored texts deemed to be authentic teachings of God translated into human languages, once again reveal how DIFFERENT the path of God is as opposed to the paths we WANT to follow. On a daily basis, surrounded by the attributes of our American culture and perceptions, we can easily grow immune to TRULY hearing the radical voice of God calling us to reject and rise above the very attributes we have easily embraced. For those who want to think in the terms of 'National Exceptionalism', the first reading from Numbers reminds us that the grace of God has persevered for thousands of years...subsisting WITHIN varied and mixed cultures which have arisen, diminished and/or been transformed through the passage of time, i.e.: the Greek, Roman and Moorish Empires came and went, contributing ideas and values but crumbling from their former prestige. Within the Letter of James, we are bluntly told that we have foolishly pursued values that are selfish and demeaning to all those with whom we share creation. Finally, within the Gospel of Mark, the pettiness of Joshua (from the First Reading) lives on within the disciples of Jesus who are dismayed that OTHERS were doing what they presumed was theirs alone to do. Jesus reminds the disciples (and us) that God alone determines who will speak on his behalf; our task is to keep ourselves interiorly focused on HIM and to not be shy in casting aside choices, perceptions, discriminations and habitual actions that are not worthy to be embraced by disciples of Jesus. With the tick-tock, tick-tock of the Liturgical Year running down (as mentioned last weekend), the STRAIGHT TALK of Scripture is ratcheting up. Have you heard it? What have you done with what you have heard?

As September fades and October prepares for her turn in time, THANK YOU for sharing this weekend with our Santa Clara Community. This week St. Francis School will celebrate their 20th Anniversary with a special 10am Mass on their field, celebrated by Bishop Vann...CONGRATULATIONS to all who, through the years, have contributed time, talent and resources to continually help SFA to reach for the stars. Please take a Bulletin home with you for news of other parish events drawing near, and, as you live your life, as best as you can, throughout this coming week, please remember that you are loved. FKB