

November 3-4, 2018

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 12:28-34

***I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me.'***

Our society makes the mythical 'Garden of Eden' seem like a desert: wrist watches and cars that cost more than homes; cosmetic surgery for animals; online shopping that promises 24-hour appeasement of every whim; deification of youthfulness, vigor and sensuality; promises of inner peace and satisfaction with fashionable clothes....and we wonder why we feel lost, empty, helpless or abandoned? These are ALL THINGS WHICH HAVE NO VALUE. If the proverbial 'apple' was the first demonstration of our willfulness, our present culture rushes to create an orchard filled with every imaginable 'solution' to whatever ails us...with the exception of casting off the false Gods of satisfaction and pleasure so as to return to the God who cautions us to 'have no other Gods before me.' This weekend's steady progression towards the end of the Liturgical Year urges a RETURN to FIRST PRINCIPALS: 'The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.' Similar to the 'possessions that actually possess us' theme of a few weeks ago, our Scriptures this weekend suggest we look to the GODS we have embraced that offer fancy clothes, cars, watches, beauty treatments and the such but which starve our soul and leave us empty, lost and afraid. The temptations are lavish and many, it takes great discipline to say NO to the things which tantalize and which we WANT. A bit of wisdom....just because something LOOKS good does NOT mean it is. A second bit of wisdom....some lines, once crossed, can never be gone back over or forgotten. Jesus continually offers us fresh starts but never erases our memories and memories hold the virus' of all those things in which we once erroneously sought our fulfillment and satisfaction. We must continually inoculate ourselves from the ever-fresh virus' waiting to steal once again our strength, health and life with Jesus.

***'The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.'***

***Do you?***

November already!?!? Welcome to our month of honoring our deceased loved ones and giving thanks for the many blessings within our lives...thank you for sharing this weekend with our Santa Clara community. With elections on this Tuesday, please keep our Country, State, County and City in your prayers as we vote. Next weekend our High School Youth will be out at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Educational Center for their Autumn retreat...your kindness in praying for them will be appreciated as well. **THIS WEEKEND our Heart & Soul Team will be offering our annual ADOPT-A-FAMILY opportunity at all our Masses.** Please visit the TREE (and team) at the back of the room to select the family for whom you would like to prepare a joyous Christmas. Thanks. While many have already voted, please say a PRAYER in your heart for our USofA as Election Day approaches...we can certainly avail of all the grace we can get!! Months come and months go but please remember, no matter what month it is, you are loved. FKB

