

October 20-21, 2018

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11

Hebrews 4:14-16

Mark 10: 35-45

Suffering makes no sense.

Emotional, physical, spiritual, mental, suffering gnaws at our lives, depletes our energies, strains our capacity for human interaction and transforms our desires for pleasant days into rubble. Our culture goes to great length to medicate, yoga, Zen, philosophize, ourselves in the effort to diminish the pain and to give ourselves some semblance of peace. Yet...try as we might, suffering frequently clings to the corners of our consciousness, scattering our thoughts, draining our energies and opening the door for us to question our value, our worth, our purpose, our very lives. This weekend's Scripture selections touch upon SUFFERING, particularly the suffering of Jesus and casts it in the redemptive light by which the Church has always viewed it...as a backhanded grace that opens us to closeness with the divine. In our Gospel selection from Mark, the disciples once again are viewing Jesus through a WORDLY lens of political power, asking to sit at Jesus' left and right hands when he comes into his glory. Jesus cautions them that they do not know what they are talking about but they persist and Jesus relents...but not without giving a lesson on service and leadership. As each early apostle/disciple died, frequently accompanied with great suffering, the truthfulness of their message, of their RELATIONSHIP in the CRUCIFIED and RISEN JESUS, was validated. People do not suffer for something dismissible or known to be untrue. In our daily existence, the challenge is to transform our private and personal sufferings into invitations for conversations with Jesus, to, in the old teachings of the Church, turn them into a gift back to Jesus... to 'offer them up.' Perversely, suffering of any sort is an avenue of self-emptying by which we may, even with frustration or desperation, draw closer to Jesus. Suffering does not make any sense...but knowing how much Jesus suffered to demonstrate his love for us allows us to appreciate and believe the truth of his words and actions that much more...and perhaps that is the only way to get our minds around suffering...it is the ultimate test of our love, of our beliefs, of our fidelity, of our hope...true love will always involve suffering.

Thank you for sharing this dandy Autumn weekend with our Santa Clara community. Even though we accepted a SPECIAL collection to benefit St. Dominic's Parish in Panama City, Florida, last weekend...this being World Mission Sunday the Second Collection Basket is AGAIN available in the middle of the Hall for your consideration. Bringing the 'Mission Appeal' season to an end, this collection allows the Diocese of Orange to respond charitably to all the different requests they receive from groups that do not merit a direct appeal at individual parishes. Thank you for your consideration and generosity. While still a bit away, please take note that an ALL SAINTS VIGIL will be celebrated on Halloween Evening at 5pm, with Thursday morning Masses at 8:30am and then the SFA School Mass at 10am. If you wish your own beloved family or friends who have died to be enrolled in the November ALL SOULS Masses, envelopes are available at the exits. One last thing before you dash out the door to wherever...please remember, you are loved.
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