

June 29-30, 2019

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Santa Clara Celebration of USA 243rd Birthday

Kings 19:16-21

Galatians 5:1-18

Luke 9:51-62

In a few weeks our progression of Seminarian Interns will reap a RICH Harvest with the Ordination to Priesthood of Deacon Michael Nguyen and Deacon Daniel Seo. Each of these young men have NORMAL stories of living their lives, dreaming their dreams and planning their futures. Within those plans and dreams, God slowly but surely began to speak to them, calling them to himself. That we have been participants in their discernment, were asked to give our two-cents of guidance, is a HUGE responsibility, to which we readily responded. As our lives were enriched by their presence among us, so we, in simply living our lives and welcoming them into our midst, gave guidance and enrichment to the truth of their sense of having been called by God to serve him as one of his priests. Priesthood is BUT ONE WAY in which VOCATIONS manifest themselves. Marriage equally requires commitment, sacrifice and continual LISTENING for the guidance of God. Discerning what to do with one's life, one's professions, of how to put our professional lives at the SERVICE of God, is a powerful VOCATION. No matter what we do, no matter what our talents or skills may be, EACH of us is called by God to contribute our abilities, our skills, our blessings, our talents, for the betterment of our world and the enhancement of life by ALL people. The temptation of evil is for us to become self-centered, to think that 'what is ours is ours and ours alone' and become self-centered and diminished by possessiveness. A timely example of this foolishness are the ongoing criminal cases of those who bribed their kid's way into prestigious universities...regrettably making themselves and their kids look stupid, criminal and conniving in the process. Compare this to Bill and Melinda Gates who have contributed over 38 BILLION dollars for global food/poverty relief and third-world educational efforts. This weekend's Scriptures are rich in the INVITATION by God for people to follow him more closely: in the Book of Kings, Elisha responds promptly to Elijah's urgings and in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus gives wise counsel regarding the FOCUS with which our vocations must be lived. As WE go about our day to day lives...have we begun each day with an OFFERING of our talents, service and time to the Lord for whatever he may wish? A simple statement upon waking: 'here I am Lord, use me as you wish' is a powerful prayer and offering...and with our God of surprises, who knows where such a prayer may lead as God takes us up on our offer.

Thank you for sharing this final June weekend with our Santa Clara community. Celebrate well our nation's 243rd Birthday, drive safely on the roads and relish the freedoms we all too often take for granted. This weekend we accept a SECOND SPECIAL COLLECTION for the Universal Church (which used to be called PETER'S PENCE and goes to facilitate the Holy Father's emergency global outreaches), your generosity is always welcomed. With the approach of the ordinations and celebrations of Father's Michael and Daniel...**please note that on Sunday, July 28 and Sunday, August 4th, there are NO 12NOON MASSES...**so that the 10am FIRST MASSES by Michael and Daniel on those days can be fully celebrated and enjoyed. As June sputters to an end and the richness of July opens before us, remember, you are loved.