

July 13-14, 2019

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Colossians 1:15-20

Luke 10:25-37

Talk is cheap. It is easy and self-gratifying to recite our prayers, to attend Mass and perhaps even spend lengthy visits before the Blessed Sacrament within the Tabernacle. All this 'talk' may indeed soothe whatever savage, cruel interior dispositions we may have but how has it benefitted the world in which we live? How have we actively shown MERCY, kindness and generosity to people BEYOND OUR CIRCLE of acquaintances? This is the question at the core of today's Gospel and parable. The scholar of the law, confident of his own righteousness, engages Jesus in conversation, citing his knowledge of biblical precepts as a way of showing to Jesus his 'goodness' and worthiness for eternal life. In his parable, Jesus uses the example of individuals whom the BIGGER world would naturally see as good and holy men: a Jewish Priest and a Jewish Levite. In depicting a man robbed and beaten, Jesus portrays these two as walking by the victim without stopping...whether they prayed for the victim we do not know...but Jesus says they did not stop or offer any actual assistance. Only the unexpected Samaritan (read someone you would not expect to be helpful or outgoing) stops and offers actual physical aid. A variation on the saying: 'actions speak louder than words', Jesus challenges the self-righteous scholar to admit the obvious...that the one who put their faith into visible, viable action, is the individual to be praised. At this midway point of July, what do our actions (or lack of them) speak about our intentional efforts to be disciples of Jesus. Is our relationship with Jesus all talk (to make ourselves feel good) or have we actively developed patterns of consciously, physically, actively, helping other people with compassionate deeds? Talk CAN BE CHEAP...but if we are talking about what we have actually, actively, purposely, done to make the world a better place...then maybe our words are reflective of reality and not empty (as long as it is not bragging!)

Thank you for sharing this Summer weekend with our Santa Clara community. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society and Heart and Soul Ministry are distributing EMPTY school back packs after our Masses, with the hope that you will return them in the next few weeks filled with assorted school supplies which will be used by the children of Immaculate Heart of Mary School along with other designated recipients. A GREAT way to put TALK into ACTION!!! Thank you in advance for your generosity. Next weekend we will host Fr. Lourdu Xavier Jesudoss who will be, at all our Masses, sharing the needs of the Diocese of Thanjavur for our Summer Missionary Appeal. Please note the approach of Fr. Michael's First Santa Clara Mass on Sunday, July 28th at 10am (with NO 12noon Mass that day) and Fr. Daniel's First Santa Clara Mass on Sunday, August 4th at 10am (with NO 12noon Mass that day)...what a gift for Santa Clara to be able to celebrate two in a row!!! Bulletin await you with further information, please take one, if only to fan yourself as the Summer days heat up...and please remember, you are loved. FKB