

July 20-21, 2019

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:1-10

Colossians 1:24-28

Luke 10:38-42

Beef OR chicken? Regular rolls OR gluten free? Soup OR Salad? Coffee OR tea? Caffeinated OR decaffeinated? Sparkling OR still? Options, options, options. Rarely on a menu or invitation have we ever seen the word: BOTH...yet sometimes we would actually enjoy a bite of both chicken AND beef, chocolate AND vanilla, salad AND soup, etc. As July slides toward August, this weekend we have the image of two of Jesus' close friends, Martha and Mary, hosting Jesus in their dwelling, with Martha being busy with the tasks of HOSPITALITY and Mary plopping herself down so as to LISTEN to Jesus speak. In an ideal world this would be perfect teaming, one person handling the meal prep while the other entertains the guest...but sometimes, some chores require the efforts of more than a single individual. Martha tries to emphasize this point to Jesus, and as we know, Jesus shuts her down with the comment: 'Mary has chosen the better part!' Ouch! We do not know the 'rest of the story' but knowing that the women were close friends of Jesus (along with their brother Lazarus), many of us might easily imagine Martha upping the ante by sitting down herself and letting Jesus know that he could take care of his own meal. While the rest of the story is left untold, in reality we are given BOTH women as models to integrate within our lives...being someone who PREPARES for Jesus and SIMULTANEOUSLY being someone who then LISTENS to the one for whom we have prepared. Disposing ourselves to CONVERSE with Jesus is not the same as ACTING on what we have shared and heard. Elsewhere in Scripture we are told that 'the one who knocks has the door opened for them, the one who seeks will find, the one who asks is answered', etc. The conundrum is when we have asked...but don't follow through on what we have heard! When we have knocked but have not walked through the door once it was opened! With Martha AND Mary we are gently reminded that simply hearing the words of Jesus does not necessarily change the world (or our lives)...but trying to change the world (or our lives) without listening to Jesus is also a fools effort. Listening to Jesus AND acting on what we have heard is always the path of wisdom...not one or the other...but BOTH.

Thank you for sharing another Summer weekend with our Santa Clara community. NEXT weekend will be a busy and exciting time for BOTH our parish community and Deacons Michael & Daniel as they are ordained to the fullness of Priesthood at Christ Cathedral at 10am (please consider this your INVITATION!) FATHER Michael will celebrate his FIRST Santa Clara Mass at 10am the next day, Sunday, July 28th, followed by a highly festive reception (please NOTE, we have CANCELLED the 12Noon Mass that day as well as the following Sunday, August 4th so that the Masses can be fuller celebrations.) You are encouraged to alter your preferred Mass times so as to enjoy a unique blessing for Santa Clara...FIRST MASSES are rare and wonderful...and you have helped to contribute to making 'Father' Michael what he is becoming. Thank you for your generosity to this weekend's MISSION APPEAL, the basket is in the middle of the room for your kindness and help. Please accept a Bulletin with other news of upcoming events, including our September LA CENA...and as you prep for ordinations and summer events, please remember that you are loved. FKB