

August 17-18, 2019

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 38:4-10

Hebrews 12:1-4

Luke 12:49-53

***'I have come to set the earth on fire and how I wish it were already blazing!***

Amid the patriotic fervor in the days surrounding our Fourth of July it is easy to forget that back in 1776 there were MANY people during the War of Independence who did NOT want to break away from England. For those of us who have stood in respect within the Lincoln Memorial it is important to remember that there were many who would have been happy to let the South split off from the Union...especially as the casualties grew higher and higher. The level of discord in our present political climate is equally strong, afflicting every important dialogue with acrimonious politics wherein the voice of Jesus is easily dismissed. Outreach to the homeless? While some would dismiss/overlook or 'eliminate' them, are they not human beings deserving of respect and compassion...even if it means spending money and changing laws so as to invite/force them into care facilities? Refugees crowding our borders? While some see an alien horde that should be put in cages, are they not human beings deserving of compassion and even welcome to the 'land built by immigrants' *both legal and illegal*? Frequently the one thing disparate groups have in common is a SHARED SURPRISE that not everyone sees an issue/person/concern the same way. Perhaps that is a starting point for conversation, tenderly, carefully, approached...but a starting point nonetheless. The opening lines from today's Gospel are unsettling: **'I have come to set the earth on fire!!'**, still, we need only look at the fiery histrionics that come from assorted 'conservative' priests, bishops, cardinals and laity when Pope Francis suggests ACCOMPANYING those divorced and remarried so that they can receive Eucharist on a regular basis. Likewise, when Pope Francis does not condemn Gays or Lesbians but welcomes conversation and GROWTH in understanding their relationships, he is portrayed as the anti-Christ. Still again, in opening a crack for the Catholic Church to be publicly acknowledged in China, Papa Francesco is roundly condemned for selling out what has thus far been an underground Church.

***'Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather, division.'***

As we relish these mid-Summer weeks, perhaps some serious thought and consideration might be given within our own prayer and spiritual reflections as to whether we are truly OPEN to what GOD WANTS...as opposed to expecting GOD TO WANT WHAT WE WANT?

Thank you for sharing our weekend celebration of Eucharist with our Santa Clara Community. We are now less than one month away from LA CENA...please make your reservations for this fabulous opportunity to enjoy food, beverage, music and one another's company as Summer prepares to end...Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> is the date...please pick up a form near the posters or visit [SCDAYL.ORG](http://SCDAYL.ORG) and lock in your seats! As the 'dog-days' of Summer enfold you, please remember, you are loved! FKB