

September 14-15, 2019

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:7-14

Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-32

It was perhaps easier to understand the imagery used by Jesus in this weekend's Gospel passages from Luke when towns/villages were smaller, before the 'cohesive family' had become fractured and people still drew strength from one another even if they would at times quarrel. With today's EASY capacity to look the other way when surrounded by homeless folks, to ignore the plight of refugees because they do not conform to our system of laws, of marriage being a questionable institution, of our ease to lock people up and throw away the keys, to seemingly be encouraged to resist whatever appears different or challenging, the imagery of a God who NEVER EVER, EVER, EVER, gives up on any one of us can be difficult to embrace. Amid a growing culture where salvation and heaven are perceived as rewards for those who have toed the line according to whatever strict ethical/moral/liturgical code-of-the-day holds sway, a woman sweeping the house for a single coin, a man abandoning his flock to search for the errant lamb that has gone missing and a father who willingly allows himself to be played and manipulated by his son and CELEBRATES the conniving son's return, seem ludicrous. Yet, this this is the God who has allured each of us here today, the God who refuses to give up on any one of us, the God who seeks out the most heinous of criminals, the vilest of people, right along with those of us perhaps less vile and less heinous... for the simple reason that we are ALL created in his image and likeness. He refuses to allow any of us to escape him. EVIL seeks to divide us, to give us permission to dispense with those we find troubling. EVIL counsels that it is ok to ignore the downtrodden, that we deserve the BEST even when many have nothing. EVIL wants us to run from a God who searches high and low so as to welcome us home. EVIL wants us to think of God as stupid, wimpy and ridiculous. EVIL soothingly whispers that we are entitled to whatever WE WANT...just like the Garden of Eden. God wants ALL his children to be gathered with him...even the petulant ones like us who think we are more deserving and should be extended greater privilege.

September has replaced August yet Summer lingers for a few more days. Thank you for sharing this LA CENA weekend with our Santa Clara community. Please note our St. Vincent de Paul BUNDLE Weekend on September 21-22...time to clean out your closets and garage and help St. Vincent be generous to those in dire circumstances. Bulletins await you at the doors as you exit, please take one with you and remember, be it Summer or soon to be Fall, you are loved. FKB