

**September 7-8, 2019**

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Wisdom 9:13-18**

**The Letter of Paul to Philemon**

**Luke 14:25-33**

*'There is nowhere, where the grace of God is not.'* (FKB)

*'Nothing exists outside the grace of God.'* (FKB)

*'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways...'* (Isaiah 55)

*'Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends?'* (Book of Wisdom)

Thinking, as we do, of our daily, weekly, lifetime, plans, it is easy to fall into the trap of presuming that God thinks as do we. We start to presume that God intends our children to grow and go to college, that God wants us to have sailboats and skidoos for pleasure, that God wants us to artificially look forever young, to be thin, supple, healthy and 23 forever. We start to think THINGS are our RIGHT to possess and then start to define ourselves shallowly according to what we erroneously think is ours. The words of Jesus...not the sanitized words to which we LIKE to cling, but the REAL words of Jesus, are jarring and disturbing. 'If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple....' And again... 'In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.' Genuine faith requires an emptying of self, both interiorly and exteriorly, a grace-filled resignation that our task is NOT to try to control God but rather to embrace wherever and however the grace of God leads us and is revealed to us. For those that seek and require control...this is a tremendous struggle and seemingly a curse to be avoided. For people of faith, simply knowing that each moment of each day is a graced gift is sufficient cause and reason for them to keep living, keep mothering, keep fathering, keep serving, keep teaching, keep assembling cars, keep flipping burgers, keep writing, keep drawing, keep breathing, as best they can. In these final days of Summer...how empty have we made ourselves before the Lord? To what do we cling? To what do we feel entitled? By what measure do we define success? (Do we long to see our children and grandchildren successful in this life... OR.... safe and secure with Jesus?)

With but 14 days remaining of Summer, thank you for sharing a few hours in prayer, worship and community with our Santa Clara community. **Our Santa Clara CELEBRATION of Summer's bounty is NEXT SATURDAY....LA CENA!** Commencing after the 5pm Mass, LA CENA is an evening of food, beverage, friends new and old, music, laughter, dancing and placid enjoyment of a Summer night beneath a rising full moon. LA CENA is NOT a drop in/last minute event, it requires prior reservations so that ample food and seating can be prepared. Make your reservations today for Santa Clara's night beneath the stars...please go online at [SCDAYL.org](http://SCDAYL.org) or use the paper Reservation Forms at the doors. Bulletins have other information regarding parish life beyond La Cena...please take one with you and remember, you are loved. FKB