

October 19-20, 2019

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:8-13

Second Timothy 3:14-4:2

Luke 18:1-8

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

Perseverance is not easy. Defeatism, especially in a culture such as ours which strives for QUICK success, drains us of zeal to keep trying. Whether it is in fighting an addiction, seeking employment, or rebuilding our relationships after betrayals, our culture implies that SURE and PROMPT SOLUTIONS await us if only we utilize this or that product, program or technique. Within the Exodus reading we are encouraged to have FAITHFUL COMPANIONS who will help us be constant in our endeavors...in the same way that Aaron and Hur helped Moses keep his hands raised in prayer/support. Again, in the Gospel selection from Luke we are reminded that PERSISTENCE...in life and with God, is to be embraced...and embraced...and embraced. The constancy of a relationship with God means we are inviting God into our life NOT JUST WHEN WE NEED Him...but all the time. Through this CONSTANCY of relationship with God we can perceive his GRACE helping us SLOWLY, but SURELY, rebuild our confidence, our abilities, our enthusiasm for life. Bouncing off of last week's Scriptures, it is also important for us to OPEN OURSELVES to where God is directing us and become aware of the obstacles we may be placing in the path of his grace with our EXPECTATIONS. For example, in seeking fresh employment we might be offered a lucrative FRESH START...but in a different State or City. Will we cling to the old or embrace the new? A son or daughter might have their heart set on Stanford or USC but a substantial scholarship may be offered to Loyola in Chicago...and honestly, after a few years, what matters most is what a person has DONE with their education, not where they got it. When GRACE is offered us, it is never given so as to allow us to repeat old mistakes. FRESH GRACE requires our OPENNESS to make CHANGES in our lives so as to fully embrace what is being offered. (By the way, God can be EQUALLY PERSISTENT in putting obstacles AND opportunities in our path so as to garner our attention. God's desire is to be in relationship with ALL of his children...no matter how long it takes.)

While the ghouls and goblins are appearing throughout our neighborhoods, here at Santa Clara we appreciate your gathering with us for another weekend of strengthening our relationships with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. NEXT Sunday is our SPECIAL FAMILY FAITH DAY: ***'When Hearts Speak to Hearts'***. Featuring Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. as our Guest Speaker, the day begins with the 12Noon Mass and continues with lunch, activities and presentations until 4pm. ALL are invited...(starting with the 12noon Mass, not just individual parts.) **Also...our Annual CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY from our Sister Parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Santa Ana, will occur on the weekend of November 9-10...**if you wish to help with this endeavor, please give a call to Sal or Dolores Aduna at 714-206-7449. Have a wonderful week, resist eating all the trick-or-treat candy ahead of Halloween and please remember, you are loved. FKB