

February 15-16, 2020
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
First Corinthians 2:6-10

Sirach 15:15-20

Matthew 5:17-37

'Before man (and woman) are life and death, good and evil, whichever they choose shall be given to them.'

On any given day, the opportunity, advertisements and encouragements to be petty, mean-spirited, unforgiving and spiteful are all around us. We read of those who sought, through bribery and deceit, prestigious colleges for their children...(including LOYOLA MARYMOUNT...what a powerful faith statement by which to enroll their kid in a Catholic university---bribery, cheating and lying) ... we hear our politicians loudly denigrate and publicly smear those who disagree with them, we read of our law enforcement officials who have fabricated evidence so as to convict those they deem worthy of conviction, we discover bishops who failed to remove criminal clergy from the priesthood, the list goes on and on. The criminal and amoral actions of our society are hard to avoid, even those whom we want to trust now have to be second-guessed and investigated. In a few weeks we will be ushered into the PENITENTIAL SEASON of LENT, long weeks of being encouraged, by GOD, to consider if we have chosen good or evil ---- life or death. Being able to come face to face with the genuine choices of our soul, disavowing somebody else making us choose as we have, humbly asking God for forgiveness and the ability to CHANGE our lives, especially as we go about living amid a society that encourages deceit, rewards and expects infidelity and determines human value based on skin color or legal standing. The desire to FULLY EMBRACE LENT, much like the desire to FULLY EMBRACE GOD, is not something done on the spur of the moment, is not shallow and requires thoughtfulness and spirited determination. These are the weeks leading up to Lent when you and I are encouraged to determine WHAT HAVE WE CHOSEN...and WHERE WILL IT LEAD. These are the weeks when we are encouraged to come BACK TO THE GOD of our ancestors, not the God of convenience or connivance. There are things worse than the Coronavirus afloat in our culture, in our society...things that can KILL US in worse ways than any virus ever could. LENT is our opportunity to begin cleansing ourselves, to reorient ourselves back to God...and to ask forgiveness for the way we have sullied God's holy name.

Thank you for sharing one of these remaining ORDINARY weekends before the coming season of LENT with our Santa Clara community. Last weekend was our 2020 DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN PLEDGE WEEKEND...and while I am grateful for the many, many pledges we have thus far received, we still have a ways to go in order to demonstrate to the Diocese of Orange our capacity to repay our construction loans. If you brought your pledge with you today, I will happily accept it. If you wish to bring it in during the week or next weekend or the weekend before Lent, I will happily, joyously received it with a smile and handshake. PLEASE, our Permanent Church will serve our ENTIRE COMMUNITY....thus it is only right and fair that our entire community claim the privilege of funding its construction. PLEASE! Of special importance is NEXT SUNDAY's - **SEAMLESS FAITH** presentation as part of our **Spring Family Faith presentation**. It starts with the 12noon Mass and continues until 4pm...the Bulletin has more information. Please take a Bulletin home with you for other news on what is happening here at Santa Clara de Asis...and please, always remember, you are loved. FKB