

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG!

Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

October 19, 2014

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

The beginning of today's Gospel drips with flattery. It is laid on thick—but with malicious intent: the Pharisees and Herodians want to entrap Jesus. Jesus is not fooled by their shameful flattery, but sees through it to their malice and hypocrisy. These vices lead to a false dichotomy between earthly and divine kingdoms.



Goodness and truth lead us to recognize our place and proper conduct in both kingdoms...but we pay only one tax: the self-giving that

bears the image of Jesus.

When God is truly the center of our lives, and we faithfully bear the image of Jesus in all we do, then there need be no separation between earthly and heavenly realms. When God and God's ways are sovereign in our lives, our choices about responsibilities and concerns in all the various realms in which we live—family, workplace, city, nation, world, church—are more clear. If we remain faithful to the image of Jesus we bear, then it is clear to others how we make our choices, who we follow.

Words to reflect upon: we pay only one tax

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
1 Timothy 2:1*

Let us pray together today for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie Maziarz and Peter and Leida Fiorito. *Let us continue to pray together for the Bishops of the Synod on the Family concluding today, that the Spirit will continue to work in their hearts and minds as they return to their homes and begin the work of continuing the processes begun in the Synod.*

*Please
pray for
the sick*

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Christ And Our Participation In It...

“Dualism” claims God is in one realm (heaven) and everything else is in another (this world) and that these realms are mutually exclusive. Jesus challenges this dualism, however, and asserts that a right perspective means that we understand God as sovereign over all people and things and that other realms have a justifiable claim on us only to the extent that we need not compromise the image of Jesus we bear. Christian living is being comfortable in all realms, all having their just claim on us, without compromising God's perspective.

Moreover, living in “this world” and our response to it is connected to our religious stance that God is sovereign. Doing good for others not only improves our own world, but strengthens right relationships with others, thus building up the Body of Christ and establishing God's kingdom in this world. Like Jesus, we give to God our very selves, but we do so through our goodness to others.

Words to reflect upon: we give to God our very selves...through our goodness to others

**Dear God,
I have chosen to do your will;
may your hand be always there
to strengthen me.**

LOVE POEMS FROM GOD

All beings are words of God,
His music, His art.
Sacred books we are, for the infinite camps
in our souls.
All creatures are doing their best
to help God in His birth of Himself.
Enough talk for the night.
he is laboring in me;
I need to be silent for a while,
worlds are forming in my heart.

— Meister Eckhart

POPE FRANCIS

“The ever-increasing number of interconnections and communications in today’s world makes us powerfully aware of the unity and common destiny of the nations. In the dynamics of history, and in the diversity of ethnic groups, societies and cultures, we see the seeds of a vocation to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another. But this vocation is still frequently denied and ignored in a world marked by a **globalization of indifference** which makes us slowly inured to the suffering of others and closed in on ourselves.”

— *Pope Francis*

“That indifference fuels not only the armed conflicts raging across our globe today, but also an unconscionable and exorbitant commitment by a handful of the most powerful states to maintain and constantly modernize arsenals of nuclear weapons whose destructive potential is vast.”

— *John Dear*

— First Principle of St. Ignatius —

As paraphrased by David I. Fleming S.J.

The goal of our life is to be with God forever.

We should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one, for everything has the potential of calling forth in us a deeper response to our life in God.

Praying with Scripture



First Reading Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Cyrus, a Gentile, permitted the Israelites to return from captivity in Babylon to their homeland. Who are the people in the last hundred and fifty years who have broken down the walls of prejudice and freed oppressed peoples? Were they all Christian? Do you think God chose them? Has God ever used you? If so, were you aware of it?

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

St Paul says: “For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction. Reflect on Pope Francis’ statement on June 9, 2014 concerning that idea: “The Spirit of truth and charity reminds us of all that Christ has said, makes us enter more fully into the sense of his words...The Holy Spirit gives us...fraternal dialogue and prophecy, helping us to speak with friendship, with tenderness, as humble and docile channels, for the word of God.”

EMBARRASSING AND TERRIBLE QUESTIONS

We see in others what we fear in ourselves.

That’s why the second great commandment is so important. “To love the neighbor as we love ourselves” means that we must also accept in ourselves what there is about us that we don’t like, or fear, or devalue.



All love starts with the way I feel about myself. If I know myself to be sincere, I never doubt anyone else’s sincerity. When I know myself to be good-willed, I assume the good will of others. When I know myself to be honest, I trust the other—not to the point of foolishness but always to the point of understanding.

“It is your business,” Horace writes, “when the wall next door catches fire.” If I realize myself to be responsible for the rest of the world, as well as for myself, I can’t possibly say that whatever affects them—legislation, natural disaster, loss of resources—has nothing to do with me.

This commandment asks such embarrassing questions: Do you need medical insurance? Then why wouldn’t you do something to get it for everyone else? Do you need to eat? Then why wouldn’t you see that every person in the United States (and Puerto Rico) is fed? Do you need an education? Then why would you begrudge the tax money it takes to provide a good education for everyone today? See what I mean? Terrible questions.

To intersect with another person’s life in any way is to change their lives that day. So the great commandment says to us always, How did you affect someone’s life today?

from **The Ten Commandments: Laws of the Heart**

by Joan Chittister (Orbis)

PEACE IS POSSIBLE

Next Wednesday, October 22, is the feast day of St.

John Paul II who so often invited us to humble prayer. “Pray for your brothers and sisters and for all the children of the world, especially for those who are poor and hungry. Pray also for those who don’t know Jesus and for those who are alone and sad”.

Saint John Paul II, pray for us

