

## WHO IS “THIS MAN”?

Twentieth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time



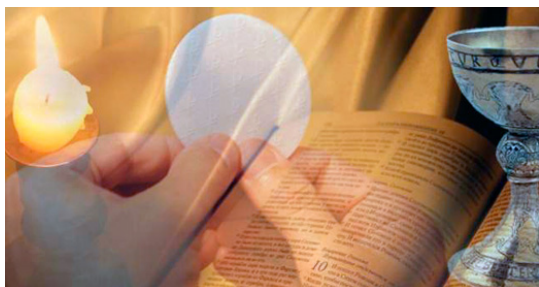
San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

August 17, 2015

### REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Little children quarrel over sharing toys, who gets to sit next to Nanna at a holiday dinner, who gets to choose the TV channel. This is a normal part of their growing up process, of how they grow in self-esteem, of how they learn to live peacefully with others. But when adults quarrel, we are uncomfortable. Adult quarrels are different from childhood misunderstandings or disagreements. Quarrels are usually marked by anger, selfishness, stubbornness. The “quarrel” of the Jews in today’s Gospel is neither stubbornness nor a disagreement. Jesus’ teaching and their quarrel go to the heart of issues held dear to their Jewish tradition: dietary laws and blood taboos. To follow Jesus is to let go of tradition and enter a whole new way of living and believing.

Who is “this man” who tells us “Whoever eats my flesh



and drinks my blood has eternal life”? This question underlies the quarrel the Jews in today’s gospel are having “among themselves”. Not only the Jewish people of Jesus’ time struggled with who Jesus is. So do we. We spend our lives encountering Jesus in many different ways and grappling with the mystery of who he is and what he did for us.

Who is this man? What a mystery! Its depth challenges us no less than the Jews of Jesus’ time. We, too, are faced with the question, Who is “this man”.

**Words to reflect upon: who is “this man”?**

**Gala Comunitaria** - All are encouraged to attend the Parish fundraiser activity to be held on August 29 at the Maria Reina auditorium. Proceeds will be used for the much-needed repairs of our church. Donation: \$50 per ticket.

### PRAISED BE

#### On Care For Our Common Home III

#### LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

(32) The earth’s resources are also being plundered because of shortsighted approaches to the economy, commerce and production. The loss of forests and woodlands entails the loss of species which may constitute extremely important resources in the future, not only for food but also for curing disease and other uses.



Different species contain genes which could be key resources in years ahead for meeting human needs and regulating environmental problems.

(33) ... Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.

(34) ...a sober look at our world shows that the degree of human intervention, often in the service of business interests and consumerism, is actually making our earth less rich and beautiful, ever more limited and grey, even as technological advances and consumer goods continue to abound limitlessly. **We seem to think that we can substitute an irreplaceable and irretrievable beauty with something which we have created ourselves.**

(36) Caring for ecosystems demands far-sightedness, since no one looking for quick and easy profit is truly interested in their preservation. But the cost of the damage caused by such selfish lack of concern is much greater than the economic benefits to be obtained. Where certain species are destroyed or seriously harmed, the values involved are incalculable. We can be silent witnesses to terrible injustices if we think that we can obtain significant benefits by making the rest of humanity, present and future, pay the extremely high costs of environmental deterioration.

## POPE FRANCIS' encyclical LAUDATO SI'

dives into our present ecological crisis and gives us theological teaching. It provides rigorous sociological analysis, calls for dialogue, and suggests action steps. But most importantly, **Laudato Si'** invites us into prayer.



### SMALL WAYS TO HELP THE PLANET

#### \* Hang Dry

Get a clothesline or rack to dry your clothes by air. Your wardrobe will maintain color and fit, and you'll save money. Your favorite tee shirt **will last longer too.**



#### \* Wash In Cold or Warm

If all the households in the U.S. switched from hot-hot cycle to warm-cold, we could save the energy comparable to 100,000 barrels of oil a day. Only launder when you have a full load.

Today, O God of all days,  
give me an experience of your heart.  
Draw me deep into your very being,  
into the core of your love.

Give me a glimpse of others the way you see others:  
loving them, forgiving them, and delighting  
in the way they give You glory  
through their very existence. Amen

**"THE CHURCH** is not a political party but **it is a moral force**, and because politics is supposed to be a moral enterprise the Church always has something to contribute to political life. The Church's first duty must be to form consciences, imparting a strong sense of moral responsibility both at the personal and the public levels."

— Pope Benedict XVI

**OJO: Remember: We, you and I, are the Church!**

*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 and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie and Don Maziarz and Peter and Leida Fiorito. *Let us pray together as a community this week that all people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift from God*



## WHY? WHAT?

Two weeks ago John's Gospel reading for the day told the story of a large crowd of people who were looking for Jesus but could not find him. Assuming that he had gone across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, they all got into boats, crossed the sea and found him. Fr. Vega's homily that day described the crowd's eagerness to find Jesus but then he turned the story around and questioned us: "Have you all come here today looking for Jesus? Why? What do you want from him?"

His message was very clear and very Ignatian—look deep into your hearts today, he told us, and find your own personal answer to those QUESTIONS. Then ask yourselves **"Why does he want me to find him? What is Jesus asking of me?** How will you answer him?"

Sounds a lot like the questions Pope Francis asks us almost every day in one way or another doesn't it? Must be important.

### Six Characteristics of Ignatian Spirituality

—George W. Traub, S.J.

1. It sees life and the whole universe as a gift calling forth wonder and gratefulness.
2. It gives ample scope to imagination and emotion as well as intellect.
3. It seeks to find the divine in all things—in all peoples and cultures, in all areas of study and learning, in every human experience, and (for the Christian) especially in the person of Jesus.
4. It cultivates critical awareness of personal and social evil, but points to God's love as more powerful than any evil.
5. It stresses freedom, need for discernment, and responsible action.
6. It empowers people to become leaders in service, men and women for others, whole persons of solidarity, building a more just and humane world.

### PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

*Second Reading Ephesians 5:15-20*



The reading tells us to give thanks always and everywhere. If giving thanks for painful situations is too difficult, what might be some other ways to handle them?