

The one who does justice
will live in the presence of
The Lord

Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

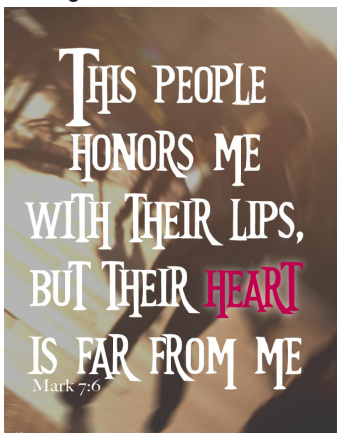


San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

August 30, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Today's Gospel is about laws. It appears that "the Pharisees with some scribes" are judging Jesus and his disciples for how they fail to keep the Jewish traditions. In fact, Jesus is passing judgment on the Pharisees and scribes by facing them with their own self-righteousness. The Pharisees fixate on keeping human traditions; Jesus frees people from rigid adherence to human traditions and redirects them to authentic living of God's commandments. At stake is right covenantal relationship with God and others in the community. Law is about right relationships, not about self-righteousness.



Words to reflect upon: law is about right relationships

Amen!

Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power and might, be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



Second Reading
James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

James says the law is planted in us. Do you see it planted in your mind or in your heart? What difference does it make? Discuss Karl Rahner's statement: "In the heart of knowledge stands love, from which knowledge itself lives." Prayer is not so much talking at God. Rather, prayer is a falling in silence at the feet of God and listening deliberately, consciously, attentively to God. It is letting God say whatever it is God wants to say. It is deciding that, no matter what we may think, we are going to obey what God says.

LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Suffering, Death And Resurrection Of Jesus And Our Participation In It

It's easier to clean pots and pans than to clean one's heart. Law is not given to be kept for its own sake; law is given for the good of the people. Any traditions to which we adhere must be for the sake of the purpose of God's commandments to live in right relationship with God and each other.

What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday; after all, this is what most of us grew up doing; this is what Catholics do. Or perhaps we cling to rote prayers that we learned as a child rather than stretch our relationship with God to find new prayer expressions. We need to look at the way we live, and this will tell us whether we have hearts truly turned toward God in a healthy and life-giving relationship. Purity of heart is expressed in righteous living—self-giving for the sake of others that deepens our relationships. This is how we have life. This is how commandments free us.

Words to reflect upon: it's easier to clean pots and pans than to clean one's own heart

"There is still time for endurance, time for patience, time for healing, time for change. Have you slipped? Rise up. Have you sinned? Cease. Do not stand among sinners, but leap aside."
-St. Basil

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**, Olga Pérez and Ritmo Aponte.

The Lord sees weaknesses differently than rebellion. When the Lord speaks of weaknesses, it is always with Mercy.

The Pope and Poverty (I)

Phyllis Zagano, in the [National Catholic Reporter](#)

Looks like the Pope Francis Fan Club is losing membership. At least that's what the Gallup Poll folks are saying. You had to know it wouldn't last. All that care for the poor business had to be getting on folks' nerves. You see, most of the people who hear what Francis says are rich.

The poor are not wired. The poor do not have smart phones and computers. The poor do not have televisions or radios. The poor do not have books or newspapers.

Oh, you say, there are poor folks on my block and they have cell phones and computers and TV and radio and books and newspapers.

Wrong. The deeply poor do not live in neighborhoods. They are not "down the block". They are in tin shacks, in huts, even caves. They are in lean-tos against things they need: clothing, furniture, and sometimes food. They hunt or fish or grow their sustenance. They fashion what they can from what is around them. In the country they have wood and stones and dirt. In the city they have the detritus of the rich (or at least of the richer), the droppings of plastic and resin the modern age uses to replace wood and stone

So, when Francis talks about the poor, most of the people who hear him have no idea what he is talking about. Most of the people who hear him are, relatively speaking, rich.

Here are the numbers:

Half of the world lives on less than \$2.50 a day. That is 3 billion people. Now, maybe in the poorest areas of the world — the favelas of Brazil, the jungle villages of Africa, the city edges of India, the seaside settlements of Malaysia and the Philippines — you can manage on that scale of economy. But think of what \$2.50 a day allows for and what it eliminates.



LET US PRAY!

All Together, 24/7

FOR the success of the Bishops Synod on the Family in Rome in the fall,

FOR relief for the terrible sufferings of Christians throughout the Middle East,

FOR an end to the drought conditions causing so much suffering in Puerto Rico and

FOR the thousands of panicked North African refugees risking their lives daily on the Mediterranean in overcrowded unsafe boats.

LAUDATUM SI'

Forming Consciences Through Critical Thinking

Pope Francis has been exhorting us to ponder the issues of his encyclical prayerfully and, after having cultivated an informed conscience, to study the issues very carefully.

There is one essential, fundamental component still to be considered as part of this process and that is **Critical Thinking**. What exactly is **Critical Thinking**? Why is it important?

First, What is it? When an individual makes a decision, he should be identifying and evaluating evidence for and against the choice he is making. **This process is called critical thinking.** Analyzing evidence to guide one's decisions is key to being an effective thinker and making well-reasoned choices. A critical thinker is able to use certain thinking "skills"; he/she asks questions, considers alternative answers, tries hypotheses and considers other viewpoints. A critical thinker is prepared to formulate the right questions, assess possible answers, judge the credibility of information and sources and make solid judgments based on the evidence collected.

Simply put, **critical thinking is thinking that questions assumptions.** It is a way of deciding whether a claim is always true, sometimes true, partly true or false. Critical thinking is the ability to focus on deciding what to believe or do. It has also been described as "thinking about thinking". Second, Why is Critical Thinking important? Knowledge without critical thinking skills turns a person into a parrot. Fully developed human beings don't necessarily need all the answers but should have effective skills for formulating and evaluating the questions. This is especially important, often critically important, in times such as the ones we are currently living in. A person with critical thinking skills is a person far less likely to make poor choices that are harmful to themselves or to others.

Most people think that they habitually use critical thinking, yet the reality is that much of our thinking, left to itself, is biased, distorted, partial, uninformed or down-right prejudiced. Yet the quality of our life and that of what we produce, make, or create depends precisely on the quality of our thought. Shoddy thinking is costly.

Excellence in thought, however, must be systematically cultivated. It's not easy. For Catholics reading about **Laudatum Si'**, this process calls us to a specific moral conversion in the exercise of social responsibility, to



a moral self-awareness as thinking persons. Should be quite a journey! Don't forget to pack your Google and your prayer book.

Lady Wisdom, Holy Spirit, stay with us on the way!