

I will praise your name,
O Lord,
for its goodness

Twenty-fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

September 20, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

In today's Gospel, the disciples continue to misunderstand—in a big way-- the deepest truth about what the "Son of Man" is to undergo! While Jesus is speaking of his impending suffering, death, and rising, the disciples are quibbling over "who (is) the greatest among them. They are brought to silence twice by Jesus because they still cannot accept the true meaning of who Jesus is



and his mission. By embracing a child, Jesus reveals, again and concretely, who he is: the One least among us who has come to serve. He tells the disciples to be servant of all, even of this child—

someone innocent, without legal status, totally dependent upon his parents, the most negligible person of society... Is this not still the case even today in the 21st century? A prominent Puertorican senator once told me "Mary Anne, don't get so excited about children. Children don't vote!"

Jesus tells us that to be great is to serve—so does Fr. Vega, by the way. And every time we are told, we are surprised again! But it must be true—Scripture tells us so over and over again: like an innocent child we must open ourselves to God's care and be strengthened to be servant of all. In this is our greatness found: following Jesus to the cross. Nobody says that it will be easy!

Words to reflect upon: servant, serve, greatness

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.

LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

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

An incredible irony lies at the basis of Jesus' teaching: only the one who becomes least by serving the least of all can be first. This lays out for us a very practical, concrete way to live the paschal mystery. By dying to self and serving the least among us, we rise to new and great life. Dying to self doesn't simply mean we write a check to the United Way or bring non-perishable food for the poor of Barrio Viet Nam to mass once a month. It means surrendering our very selves for others—all others, not just those of our own picking and choosing. Every society has cultural, economic, and social classes of people who it considers "the least". These are the very people who the gospel calls us to serve.

As we let go of anything that gets in the way of reaching out to others, we find our own wants and needs change. Gradually our priorities shift from things and possessions, getting more to the relationships that are most important and satisfying for us. Gradually we learn that the ultimate good in life is the grateful smile, the relieved suffering, the lifting up of the supposed least among us. Gradually we learn that dying to self brings new life.

Words to reflect upon: paschal mystery, surrendering, dying to self brings new life

If you'd like to try to believe all the teachings in this Paschal Mystery reflection, here's a bit of home work for each of us: ask your familiar street corner beggar his name; or if that's too much at the beginning, ask the clerk in your favorite laundry for her name. The important thing about this assignment is to remember the name (write it down if you have to) and greet the person by name with a smile the next time you encounter him/her. How simple a service for the love of God and how hard it probably will be at first! Try it--over time you'll be amazed at what happens to both of you...

prayer for

THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

Philadelphia, September, 2015

God and Father of us all,
 in Jesus, your Son and our savior,
 you have made us
 your sons and daughters.
 May the example of the Holy Family
 with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
 guide all families,
 especially those most troubled,
 to be homes of communion and prayer
 and to always seek your truth and live in
 your love.
 Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 Pray for us!

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.

Life is not lived on a calendar of plans.
 It is lived in stages of surprise.
 We get exactly what we do not want
 until we have learned to take what life likes to give.

Joan Chittister, OSB

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



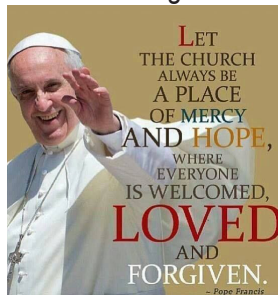
First Reading Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

“Let us find out what will happen to him”, they said.

What did they find out? Did God take care of the just one? Did God give help? Maybe you have asked God for something and received something quite different. What happened to you?

A Special Message From Pope Francis

“Dear Brothers and Sisters, I have often thought about how the Church might make clear its mission of being a witness to mercy. It is a journey that begins with a spiritual conversion. For this reason, I have decided to call an extraordinary Jubilee that is to have the mercy of God at its center. It shall be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live this Year in the light of the Lord’s words:



‘be merciful, just as your Father is merciful’.”

“This Holy Year will begin on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will end on November 20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe—the living face of the Father’s mercy. I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time.” — *Pope Francis*

Merciful Like The Father

This is the official logo for the **Holy Year of Mercy**. The Resurrected Jesus carries on his shoulders the lost soul, demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to



completion the mystery of his incarnation. The image, created by Jesuit Fr Marko Rupnik, also shows one of Jesus’ eyes merged with the man’s to show how “Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ”. The motto, “Merciful Like The Father” serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and

forgiveness without measure.

As we prepare to celebrate this **Year of Divine Mercy**, it’s a good time to seriously reflect on what mercy is all about. We can be certain that God has a lot to say about mercy and wants each of us to both give and receive mercy in a special way throughout this coming year so as to be better disposed to give and receive mercy throughout our lives... **So let’s all go out there and learn the meaning of mercy! We have 79 days to prepare our hearts to receive the graces and do the work of the Holy Year of Mercy. Lady Wisdom, Holy Spirit, stay with us on the way!**