

The ordinances of the Lord
are true,
all of them just!

Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

September 27, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Focused completely on his saving mission to bring about the kingdom of God, Jesus directly confronts human pettiness and sinfulness. He emphasizes that discipleship is decided by our behavior rather than by our being identified with a particular group or not. What is crucial to discipleship is how we *act*. Jesus uses extreme terms to tell us that we must turn from whatever is inconsistent with acting in his name. Any behavior which causes us to sin or to lead others into sin must be cut off. We are to root out the cause of sin in us at all costs. What is at stake is "entering into the kingdom of God", entering into fullness of



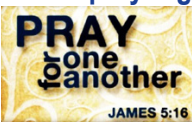
Life. Being a disciple demands radical choices about how we live and relate to others. Being a disciple demands that we make radical choices about how we adhere to Jesus, act in his name, and draw others to him.

Words to reflect upon: what is crucial...is how we act; radical choices

To know if we are getting better as we go, all we need to do is ask ourselves whether I handled today's irritations better than I handled it yesterday.

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

Faithful service is expressed in making our own the values and mission that attract us to Jesus in the first place. Discipleship means doing something so great as volunteering for one of the liturgical ministries or so simple as taking out the garbage without being asked. It means that our words and actions are consistent with Jesus' Gospel values. It means that we are ruthless about choosing to cut out behaviors inconsistent with Jesus' values and gentle about choosing to do the works of the Teacher.

Words to reflect upon: Doing Something, consistent, inconsistent, choosing

Saint Michael the Archangel, Powerful Spirit of Truth, take my hand and lead me to Divine Truth. Carry me on the wings of your love and might to the Throne of God and pray to Him with me forever. Amen.

Angels

"See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared." (Exodus 23:20)

We celebrate angels this week: **Gabriel, Raphael and Michael** are honored on the 29th and all **Guardian Angels** on October 2nd. Beautiful, pure, mighty spirits constantly surrounded and infused with the Glory of God, angels have played important roles throughout history and they continue to play important roles in God's plan... as messengers, protectors, witnesses, guides ... and so we honor them this week.



"You can do more with the grace of God than you think."

— St. John Baptist de La Salle

Note: have you ever met your Guardian Angel? Ever spoken to him/her? Asked his/her name???

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

When he announced the extraordinary Holy Year, a Jubilee of Mercy, recently, Pope Francis said that he was



“convinced that the whole church can find in this jubilee the joy of rediscovering and making fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and every woman of our time”.

Francis has been called the Pope of Mercy ever since his election on March 13, 2013. He has frequently proclaimed to the world the God of mercy, who wants to save people,

not to condemn them. Mercy is a theme that has surfaced again and again in his talks and homilies throughout the past two years.

Examples:

“I believe that this is the season of mercy.”

“The church is a mother; she has to go out to heal those who are hurting, with mercy.”

“If the Lord never tires of forgiving, we have no other choice than this: first of all, to care for those who are hurting.”

“The church’s way has always been the way of Jesus, the way of mercy and reinstatement.”

“The way of the church is not to condemn anyone for eternity. It is to pour out the balm of God’s mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart.”

“Mercy is not just a pastoral attitude; it is the very substance of the Gospel.”

Blessed are you, God of Mercy!

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.

LITURGICAL CORNER

A jubilee year, such as the coming **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, is a great religious event that originated in Judaism and was linked to universal pardon and reconciliation. As the Book of Leviticus tells us (25:8-13), it was celebrated every 50 years; slaves and prisoners were freed, debts were forgiven and God’s mercy was made more manifest. The Church revived that tradition in the year 1300 under Pope Boniface VIII. Since then there have been 29 jubilees, or holy years.

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

Scripture is never simple. Even before we begin to read, we must know who is speaking, and why, and to whom, and with what agenda. To make matters even harder the events and teachings we read about took place millennia ago in a language, culture and context different from our own.



Despite this, we return to the Scriptures again and again to understand what God wants of us. We need to know what God’s love is asking of us here and now in our own culture, language and circumstances. Reading Scripture is a habit well worth the effort...and may the Holy Spirit and Lady Wisdom be with us on the journey!

Second Reading James 5:1-6

In this reading, the rich got their wealth at the expense of the poor. Wages withheld from the harvesters cry aloud, James says. How does this message apply today?

Change and growth are not the same thing.
Just because we change is no guarantee that
we have become a better human being as a result.

How Does It Feel To Be A Heart?

Once a young woman asked me,
“How does it feel to be a man?”

And I replied,

“My dear,

I am not so sure.”

My dear,

A better question for Hafiz

Would have been,

‘How does it feel to be a heart?’

For all I know is Love,

And I find my heart Infinite

And Everywhere!”

Hafiz, (1320-1389)