

Lord, bless  
and sanctify our families!

Twenty-seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

October 4, 2015

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**T**he kingdom of God is present in unity, in openness of hearts and in accepting and loving relationships.

Today's Gospel directs our reflection toward the profound difference between God's ways and human ways and depicts conflicts with God's ways: "testing" (Pharisees with Jesus), "divorce" (between husband and wife) and



"rebuking" (the disciples with the children) are the ways of hearts grown hard. God's plan "in the beginning" and fulfilled in the establishment

of God's kingdom by Christ, on the other hand, is about communion, symbolized by the unity of husband and wife and by Jesus' receiving, embracing and blessing of children. Relationships directed to the good of the other hasten the establishment of God's kingdom. In such openness of heart is the kingdom of God among us.

**Words to reflect upon: hearts grown hard, the kingdom of God among us**



**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 Spiritual Works of Mercy

Prayer

Instructing the ignorant

Counseling

Comforting

Reproving the reprobate

Pardoning injuries

Bearing with the annoying



## LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

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

God's design for all of creation is that it be harmonious and whole. Paradoxically, it's the rhythm of the paschal mystery—between dying and rising—that keeps us harmonious and whole. Dying to self means that our own selfish interests are not put ahead of the good of another—which promotes harmony. The new Life that always comes from self-giving is a sign of wholeness. What always stands in the way of harmony and wholeness is hardness of heart—our own or another's. The challenge is in the example of Jesus; embrace and bless even the little ones.

**Words to reflect upon: hardness of heart, embrace and bless even the little ones**

## PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate the splendor of  
true love, to you we turn with trust.  
Holy Family of Nazareth, may the Synod of  
Bishops opening its sessions today in Rome  
make us once more mindful of the  
sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God's plan.**

## Two Peacemakers

This week we are given the opportunity to celebrate the lives and examples of 2 peacemakers. *Today, October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi* who gave us that wonderful prayer "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace". *This Friday, October 9th, is the birthday of John Lennon*, a musical peacemaker who sang "Give Peace A Chance" and "...Imagine all the people living life in peace..." The influence and vision of these 2 men, separated by time and geography, captivated people while they were living and continues to persuade people toward peace today. **So Pray with St. Francis, people! Sing Lennon's songs! And give thanks to the Good Lord, Giver of All Gifts!**

## ✠ francis comes to america ✠

In a worldwind tour of the United States Pope Francis visited three major US cities in six days that included an itinerary that would have challenged the physical and mental strength of a man even half his age, including the **canonization of Junipero Serra**. Here is an initial brief summary of some of the highlights of his visit:

**WASHINGTON:** In his message at the **White House** Francis identified himself as the “son of immigrants, as many of you are, or your parents were”. Emphasizing **immigration** as the basis of the original colonization of the United States, he urged the American people to continue to open their arms to those who come to our country in search of a better life. In an unprecedented message to **Congress** Pope Francis called for **respect for life** at all its stages, but surprised many by making a call to *end the death penalty* as a punishment for crime. The Pope’s affirmation of America, his embrace of Lincoln and King, his condemnation of extremism and violence drew universal approval from those in attendance. The Pope also urged us to emulate Dorothy Day as an example of an apostle of Social Justice, and Thomas Merton as an apostle of Dialogue. In a visit to a **Catholic Charities** center for the homeless the Pope said: *“The Son of God came into this world as a homeless person... Jesus keeps knocking on our doors, ... in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the faces of our neighbors, in the faces of those at our side. Dear friends, one of the most effective ways we have to help is that of prayer. Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. .. In prayer, we all learn to say “Father”, “Dad.” We learn to see one another as brothers and sisters.”*

**NEW YORK:** In his address before the **United Nations** where more than 150 heads of state were present the Pope spoke of a need for a reform of the organization, especially the Security Council and the International Financial Agencies. The latter *“should care for the sustainable development of countries” and should ensure that these countries “are not subjected to oppressive lending systems.”* That remark drew energetic applause. As expected, Francis devoted a sizable part of his talk to “the ecological crisis.” He highlighted the damage that had been done, and is being done, to planet earth, “our common home.” The visit to New York also included a stop at a **Catholic school in Harlem**, a moving multi-religious ceremony at **Ground Zero** and a **Mass at Madison Square Garden**.

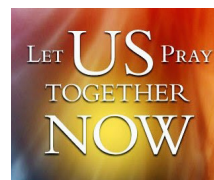
**PHILADELPHIA:** Pope Francis made an unscheduled stop at Jesuit **St. Joseph University** greeting students, staff and administration as well as elderly and infirm Jesuit fathers. In a visit to a **correctional facility** he said to the inmates: *“Jesus doesn’t ask us where we have been, he doesn’t question us what about we have done.”* Instead, Jesus washes peoples’ feet and gives them life. At **Independence Hall** the Pope praised the Declaration of Independence and affirmed, *“when a country is determined to remain true to its founding principles, based on respect for human dignity, it is strengthened and renewed.”*

## THE SECOND SESSION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SYNOD OF BISHOPS ON THE FAMILY

**opened in Rome today.** This important meeting will involve all the People of God—bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the particular churches of the entire world—all of whom have been actively participating in preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer. We here in San Ignacio have been praying for the success of the synod for several weeks now.

Pope Francis has said that the synod is dedicated in a special way to all of us as members of a family, to our vocation and mission in the Church and in society, to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children and the role of the family in the life of the Church...quite a challenge for the participants in the work of the synod don’t you think? No wonder the pope has asked us all to “pray intensely” for its success. “May we all ... pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel,” Francis writes. **So, Let us pray for the success of the synod and may Lady Wisdom, Holy Spirit be with us all — participants and observers — on the way.**

## LET US PRAY! All Together, 24/7



**FOR** the success of the Bishops Synod on the Family in Rome which **begins today,**

**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.

## So What did Pope Francis think about US??

In answer to the question *“What surprised you about the U.S. and what was different to what you might have expected?”* Pope Francis on his return trip to Rome replied:

*“What surprised me was the warmth, the warmth of the people, so lovable. It was a beautiful thing and also different: in Washington the welcome was warm but more formal; New York was a bit exuberant. Philadelphia very expressive. Three different kinds of welcome. I was very struck by this kindness and welcome but also by the religious ceremonies and also by the piety, the religiosity of the people... you could see the people pray and this struck me a lot. Beautiful.”*

And when asked for his impression of the impact and success of the Pope’s visit, Fr. James Martin, SJ replied, quoting scripture: **“He does all things well” Mark 7: 37**