

God is living and true!

Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

October 25, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Today's Gospel is filled with movement, energy, drive. The verbs describing Bartimaeus's actions say everything about faith, encountering Jesus and choosing to follow him. Each verb, each action word



says so much beyond itself.

**He cried out,
kept calling,
threw aside his cloak,
sprang up and
came to Jesus,
stated his request,
received his sight,
followed Jesus.**

Such need, such urgency, such conviction! These verbs describe Bartimaeus's faith-in-action, his deepening relationship with Jesus. Faith is

his insight and cause of action. So must it be with us.

Words to reflect upon: faith-in-action

**Jesus, Son of David, have pity on us too,
as you did with blind Bartimaeus.
We too are beggars and blind.
We cry out for the eyes of faith.**

— Liturgical Corner

Two very special holy November days are celebrated this week.

Every year the church invites us to spend the month of November in prayer for our loved ones and the yearnings of our souls for God. All of our loved ones are part of what the church calls "the Communion of Saints". The church commemorates these "saints" in a significant way by celebrating **All Saints Day**—a day celebrating victory--on **November 1st** and **All Souls Day**—a day celebrating hope-- on **November 2nd**. Let us rejoice and be glad and pray together fervently with the psalmist:

"Constant is my hope in you, O God!"

LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

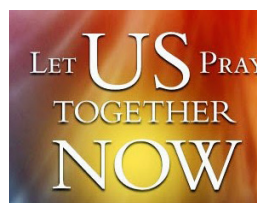
The Suffering, Death And Resurrection Of Jesus And Our Participation In It

Without persistence in prayer and seeking encounters with Jesus, it will be impossible for us to follow him faithfully. Encounters with Jesus in prayer keep our relationship to him growing, keep our relationship with him healthy and strong. The paschal mystery rhythm of dying and rising plays itself out in many ways--this Sunday in a rhythm of faith and action. In practical, everyday terms this means that at times we are doing our faith--reaching out to those around us in need. At other times we are being our faith--taking time to savor our relationship with God.

Words to reflect upon: doing our faith, being our faith

**Take courage; get up!
Jesus is calling you.**

LET US PRAY! All Together, 24/7



FOR the Bishops' Synod finishing its labors today

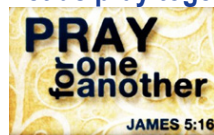
FOR For the many thousands of desperate Middle Eastern refugees flooding the countries of Europe, greatly

taxing their resources and abilities to meet these people's needs. May the world's peoples and governments respond quickly and generously in their aid.

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

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.

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

The U.S. edition of The *Church of Mercy* by Pope Francis was released last year. It conveys the pope's vision for



a church that could become a healing force in the world simply by communicating and demonstrating the **mercy** of God. In the Christian vocabulary, **mercy is a forgiving response to wrongdoing; it is God's countermove to our sin. What does everyday mercy look like? How will I live mercifully?**

Most of the time **mercy** reveals itself in fleeting moments.

For example, **mercy** gives you his seat on the bus, acting as if he was about to get up anyway rather than making you feel that he is doing you a favor. **Mercy** does not let out that sigh—you know the one—the wordless disapproval toward the person in the check-out line ahead of you whose card didn't swipe or whose toddler is having a meltdown. **Mercy** offers quiet sympathy and does not convey with her body language that this holdup is ruining her day.

Mercy sometimes chooses not to send back the food that isn't just right, simply because the waitress looks overwhelmed. When **mercy** has been wronged, the offended one does not make it difficult for the offender to apologize or ask forgiveness.

— Vinita Hampton Wright in *Soul Seeking*

A HOMELESS SHELTER, CALLED GIFT OF MERCY, has opened near the Vatican in honor of Pope Francis.



The shelter is owned by the General House of the Jesuits and operated by Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity. It was inaugurated by the pope's main charity adviser, Monsignor Konrad Krajewski, inspired by the Pope's continuing appeal to help people in need.

Designed to house 34 men, the shelter is located between Santo Spirito Hospital and Church and St. Peter's Square. Guests must be interviewed first, then adhere to the dormitory's rules. They can stay a maximum of 30 days.

Guests can get a meal at Casa Dono di Maria, the near-by Vatican women's shelter, before entering the shelter as well as breakfast in the morning. They can also shower and get a shave and hair cut in the new facilities opened a few weeks ago under the Colonnade of St. Peter's Square.

SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

The Synod on the Family finishes its work today and the bishops will be returning to their home dioceses sometime this week, their minds and hearts full of a multitude of emotions, impressions and new ideas, fruit of having experienced the last 3 weeks together as "the Church that journeys together to read reality with the eyes of faith and with the heart of God", to quote Pope Francis' opening address to the synod. Unfortunately, our bulletin deadline does not allow us to cover the synod's concluding statements or reports today. We will be doing that in future bulletins. Meanwhile, let us just give thanks for the blessings that we have already received from this extraordinary meeting.



MERCY IN ACTION

Is there anything our San Ignacio 9:30 Community could do to help alleviate the suffering of the refugees flooding European countries? Your editor recently passed through a train station in northern Germany and witnessed just such a community initiative at work. Gathered in a corner of the very cold Rostock station arrival area were a group of local Catholic parishioners setting up tables laden with food parcels, warm clothing and shoes for children and adults, blankets, pillows, luggage, back packs, toiletries, and God only knows what else a refugee family could need. There were nurses, doctors, social aid workers and dozens of families waiting to welcome refugee families into their homes. Later that evening as we were leaving, the refugees had arrived and there was a general joyfully chaotic scene on the platform as Rostock Christians met exhausted strangers and welcomed them into their community. San Ignacio is a long way from northern Germany, I know, but we are not lacking in resources and creativity...nor are we less Spirit-filled than the people of Rostock, Germany. Let's pray on it together...and may the God of Mercy inspire us!

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

First Reading Jeremiah 31:7-9



Is there anyone in your life who just needs the road "leveled out" a little? If you help, how is this good for both of you? Does self-giving help really bring about the kingdom of God?

Gospel Mark 10:46-52

"Master, I want to see." What is it that you want to "see" that will change your life as radically as Jesus changed that of Bartimaeus? What was the miracle here, the faith of Bartimaeus or the healing of physical blindness?