

Beware of the Scribes!

Thirty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

November 8, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Today's Gospel is really a metaphor for true discipleship. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? Jesus tells us when he contrasts the behavior of the self-important and insincere scribes with the action of a poor and seemingly insignificant widow.



Jesus teaches the crowds to beware of the hypocrisy of the scribes who know God's word and law, yet seek places of honor and hurt those whom the law demands they protect—the

widows. Jesus condemns them severely. "Calling his disciples to himself", he teaches them that they are not to do like the scribes. They are instead to do like the widow in the temple who gives all she has. True disciples give all they have, their whole livelihood — not goods, but *themselves*.

The amazing thing about faithful discipleship is that God provides us with astonishing surplus: protection, talents, blessings. The "whole livelihood" disciples give is their very selves, disciples give of what God has already given them. Ultimately, discipleship is about good stewardship of who we are.

Words to reflect upon: astonishing surplus

Praise the Lord, my soul!

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

We learn how to be good disciples from others who follow Jesus faithfully, who contribute to the good of all out of the surplus with which God has blessed them. Today's gospel holds up the poor widow as a model for the total self-giving of the true disciple. We need but look around us to find strong models for true discipleship. Nor is it a matter of these disciple-models giving large sums of money. Giving a bit of time each week for the good of another, participating in at least some parish activities beyond going to Mass and contributing to the collection basket, signing up when volunteers are needed are all ways of contributing a little, which makes a huge difference in overall parish life and community life. Even "something" can be our "all". So, are we true disciples?

Words to reflect upon: we learn how to be good disciples from others who follow Jesus

Wednesday, November 11th is Veterans Day

A Reflection by Carl Sandburg:

Seven nations stood with their hands on the jaws of death.

It was the first week in August, Nineteen Hundred Fourteen.

I was listening, you were listening, the whole world was listening,

And all of us heard a Voice murmuring:

"I am the way and the light.

He that believeth on me

Shall not perish

But shall have everlasting life."

Seven nations listening heard the Voice and answered:

"O Hell!"

The jaws of death began clicking and they go on clicking.

"O Hell!"

THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis consistently identifies **mercy** as the central function of the church and the key aspect of Jesus' ministry and work. He also often says **mercy** is a key aspect of God's



actions towards human beings and that our own exercise of pardon will determine how we will eventually be judged.

The pope quotes from Peter's question in Matthew's Gospel about how many times it is necessary to forgive, where Jesus responds: "I do not say seven times, but seventy times seventy times". "Jesus affirms that **mercy** is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for

ascertaining who his true children are".

"In short, **we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us**. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves."

for reflection . . . The World's Refugees I

(from the October International New York Times)

Dadaab, Kenya, the world's largest refugee camp, is a **city** built of mud and sticks, the size of New Orleans. Built in 1991 as a temporary refuge for around 90,000 people fleeing Somalia's civil war, it now has a population of 500,000 people.

There are 14 million refugees living in what the U.N. calls "**protracted situations**" — no real solutions available or likely to happen to them.

In Pakistan, along the border with Afghanistan, the camps founded in 1979 for Afghan refugees are now a string of **79 permanent slums** run by the U.N. and home to nearly a million people.

Merciful Father, forgive us our sins!

Today is the birthday of **The Servant of God Dorothy Day**, legendary Catholic social activist and founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, who lived and worked among the poor until she was 83.

Her faith-filled work inspired by the Gospel prompted Pope Francis to include her among the four Americans (together with Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King and Thomas Merton) he held up to Congress as examples of praiseworthy and inspired individuals. Her autobiography, **The Long Loneliness**, recounts her remarkable journey from the Greenwich Village political and literary scene of the 1920s through her conversion to Catholicism and her lifelong struggle to help bring about "the kind of society where it is easier to be good."



SYNOD ON THE FAMILY



The Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops has concluded its work in Rome. The bishops are on their way home, their hearts and minds filled with their rich 3-week synodal experiences. Pope Francis' admonitions at their last session are still ringing in their ears while the words of his homily in the concluding liturgy fill their hearts.

Pope Francis spoke eloquently about the Synod experience saying "from Vatican Council II to the current Synod on the family, we have experienced in an increasingly intense way the beauty of 'walking together'...We must continue on this road".

"A Synodal church is a Church who listens, aware that listening is more than hearing. It is a process of mutual listening in which each person has something to learn. The faithful, the Episcopal College, the bishop of Rome: each one listening to the others, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of Truth'. As a Church who 'walks together' with mankind, participating in the labors of history, we cultivate the dream that the rediscovery of the inviolable dignity of peoples and the function of the service of authority may also help in the edification of civil society in justice and fraternity, giving rise to a world that is more beautiful and worthier of humanity for the generations to follow us."

The Children of God (that's us folks!) are left to continue to pray for the Spirit's guidance for us all—bishops and laity—as we ponder the material from the synod that has been published and that will continue to be published as time goes by. It is important to recognize that the secular media, for the most part, has consistently gotten it all wrong—exaggerating, distorting, misinterpreting and misunderstanding the information coming out of the synod discussions. Let's do better than this! Explore the credible religious sources of Synodal information (America Magazine, for example) and read, read, read.

May Lady Wisdom, Holy Spirit, be with us on the journey!

LET US PRAY! All Together, 24/7



FOR the Bishops of the Synod as they return home to implement the fruit of their work in their dioceses,

FOR relief for the terrible sufferings of Christians throughout the Middle East especially Syria and Iraq;

FOR those who govern us in Puerto Rico, that they may receive the grace of wisdom to effectively deal with the numerous situations that plague society here.

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.