

**You are my inheritance, O Lord!
My heart is glad
and my soul rejoices!**

*Thirty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time*



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

November 18, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

At the time when we near the end of another liturgical year, the Lectionary includes gospels about the end times that call for us to look far into the future. These gospels inevitably paint a dark and dismal picture of calamity and doom, and so we often dismiss them. The apocalyptic imagery of today's Gospel ("sun will be darkened", "moon will not give its light", "stars will be falling from the skies") is no exception. We are tempted to ask, "When, Lord?" Jesus' answer, "no one knows", ought to bring us to pay more attention to the present. Now is an opportune time for the in-breaking of Christ. Now is what counts. The future is now.



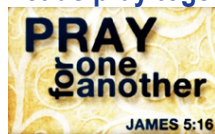
We think of Jesus' Second Coming as a future event. In fact, the darkness of the sun and moon and stars is already happening in the trials and tribulations that not only beset the first disciples, but also are part of our own lives. Jesus promises that all these things will happen. He further promises that he is "near, at the gates". Today's Gospel is about the ultimate victory over darkness that belongs to those who are faithful. That victory is now. The future is now.

Words to reflect upon: the future is now

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

Just as big calamities are not what the future is really about, neither are big deeds what our present is about. Our present is about doing the little things well, and we know how we "lead the many to justice" (first reading): by listening to Jesus' words. Jesus has already given us all we need to have our names "written in the book". We just need to live like he did: with compassion and understanding, wisdom and care, love and hope.

Words to reflect upon: Jesus has already given us all we need

**Give us Faith, Lord,
when the mountain is too high.
Give us hope, Lord,
when the road is too long.
Teach us love, Lord;
let it blaze in our hearts and
shine to your glory, O Lord!**

A spiritual life without courage is a spiritual life that substitutes trust in the system for trust in the God who depends on us to live a courageous life. As St. Francis de Sales said of such a conundrum:

**"We must fear God out of love,
not love God out of fear."**

LET US PRAY! All Together, 24/7

FOR the millions of refugees living in "protracted situations" and permanent slums".



WE GIVE YOU THANKS, OH LORD, for an end to the drought in Puerto Rico; help us to be good stewards of the

beautiful world you have created for us;

FOR the Family Synod which has offered much promise for the Holy Spirit to move in ways to better the clergy's understanding of the family and difficult situations that confront the laity.

THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

The **Year of Mercy** will be initiated by Pope Francis on **December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**. The pope continues to speak forcibly and



often about mercy and we would do well to read his words in preparation for a holy celebration of the Year of Mercy. For example, words from his closing remarks to the Synod of Bishops: The Church's first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy, to call to conversion, and to lead all men and women to salvation in the Lord.

Blessed Paul VI expressed this eloquently: "We can imagine, then, that each of our sins, our attempts to turn our back on God, kindles in him a more intense flame of love, a desire to bring us back to himself and to his saving plan...God, in Christ, shows himself to be infinitely good...God is good. Not only in himself; God is—let us say it with tears—good for us. He loves us, he seeks us out, he thinks of us, he knows us, he touches our hearts and he waits for us. He will be—so to say—delighted on the day when we return and say: 'Lord, in your goodness, forgive me'. Thus our repentance becomes God's joy."

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

— THE LITURGICAL CORNER

Next Sunday is the last Sunday of this liturgical year; a new liturgical year begins November 29th with the First Sunday of Advent. Now is an important time, then, for asking ourselves where our gospel journey has led us this liturgical year. This is a very good time to assess our individual and collective growth: are we liturgically more "advanced" than we were last year at this time? Have we drawn nearer to Christ who is ever near us? Have we embraced the natural rhythm of dying and rising that marked Jesus' own life? Where are our areas of growth? What are the areas of need we still must address if we are to continue worshiping well? These are just a few of the questions worth pondering as we draw the liturgical year to a close. These are the kinds of questions that make our waiting filled with growth, hope and new life.

POPE FRANCIS

...and thanks to this time of grace which the Church has experienced in discussing the family, we feel mutually enriched. Many of us have felt the working of the Holy Spirit who is the real protagonist and guide of the Synod. For all of us, the word "family" has a new resonance, so much so that the word itself already evokes the richness of the family's vocation and the significance of the labors of the synod.

In effect, for the Church to *conclude* the synod means to *return* to our true "journeying together" in bringing to every part of the world, to every diocese, to every community and every situation, the light of the Gospel, the embrace of the Church and the support of God's mercy!

Pope Francis in his closing remarks to the Synod on the Family

for reflection . . . The World's Refugees II

(from the October International New York Times)

Hundreds of thousands of refugees from Darfur have been living in a collection of **23 camps** across the border in Chad since 2004, with no end in sight.

Similar numbers and situations exist in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Thailand, Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan, Turkey and elsewhere, where people are living and reproducing in limbo. The numbers are growing not only because of a world in turmoil, but also because whole generations are growing up in camps.

Gaza is perhaps the best example of this. The eight original refugee camps have morphed into **towns** that, together, are now one of the most densely populated areas in the world, home to 1.7 million people. Separate from the UNHCR and with a different mandate, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East was founded in 1949 for about 759,999 Arab Palestinians forced to flee their homes in 1948. But with no peace deal or return in sight, the agency looks after their 5 million descendants at a cost to the international community of over \$1 billion a year. The agency was supposed to be an exception, but Gaza now looks like the rule.

Having listened to Pope Francis' words, what is the Christian community to do in the face of these enormous numbers?

Be the Change

Big or small, make it a priority to find a cause that with your efforts can help make a change for the better — around you, in Puerto Rico, in the world.