

Sing to the Lord a new song!

Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

January 17, 2016

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

What is Jesus' "hour"? It is a time of the revelation of God's immense gift of abundance. In today's Gospel, not one jar of wine became wine, but six. Not a little bit of wine, but over a hundred gallons. Not partially filled but "to the brim". Not inferior wine, but "good wine". Not just one sign, but "the beginning of his signs". God's glory is revealed in many signs of abundance. Most fully in Jesus Himself. Most



fully in us, the Body of Christ, as we come to deeper belief and continue his mercy.

Words to reflect upon: **we continue his mercy**

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

PSALM 96

Sing God a brand-new song!
Earth and everyone in it, sing!
Sing to God—worship God!
Shout the news of his victory from sea to sea,
Take the news of his glory to the lost,
News of his wonders to one and all!
Bravo, God, Bravo!
Everyone join in the great shout: Encore!
In awe before the beauty, in awe before the might.
Bring gifts and celebrate,
Bow before the beauty of God,
Then to your knees—everyone worship!
Get out the message—God rules!

From *The Message, the Bible in Contemporary Language*

LIVING YOUR PASCHAL MYSTERY

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

Belief is directed to a Who rather than a what. Our own encounters with Jesus (in prayer, through others, in struggling with daily self-giving) are truly epiphanies of God's glory which also invite us to respond to abundance with belief. These epiphany signs might come in many ways—through others in a cry for help, in a lonely person's plea for companionship, in the spontaneous laughter of delight, in the beauty of nature. The challenge for us is to see these as revelations of God's glory, as epiphanies of God's love for us, and an opportunity to respond in belief.

Words to reflect upon:

epiphany signs

prayer

Dear God, thank you for reminding us that
You are the hope we have to cling to.
Help us to remember this and
to demonstrate that hope to all those
we come in contact with
on a daily basis.
Open the eyes of our understanding
to see beyond what is plain to the eye,
to the promise that
You always have a better plan.

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:

pray

Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie and Don Maziarz, and Olga Pérez. *This week let us ask, together with Pope Francis, for peace, mercy, reconciliation, pardon and love for Bangui, for the Central African Republic and for all the countries suffering from war.*

MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER



If you have not read the beautiful letter from Pope Francis for the **Year of Mercy, Misericordiae Vultus**, I highly recommend that you do. You will notice how many times Pope Francis connects the virtue of mercy with forgiveness. Several times he describes forgiveness as the vehicle through which we can be merciful and God is merciful to us.

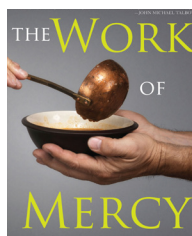
As I read the letter, I realized that sometimes I see forgiveness as just one of the many things I “should” do because I am a Christian. But when God asks us to be merciful by forgiving others, he is not asking us to do this simply because it is the right thing to do. But because forgiveness is the right thing to do, it is a path to joy. God wants us to have joyful hearts. Pope Francis writes that mercy is “a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace”.

— Theresa Aletheia Noble, FSP

Most sacred, forgiving Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Mercy has as its source the heart of God intersecting with creation.

The Corporal Works of Mercy: FEED THE HUNGRY



Consider how good stewardship practices of your own food habits can benefit others who do not have those same resources. Try not to purchase more food than you are able to eat and use the savings to donate to organizations such as **La Fondita de Jesus** that serve the hungry. (787-724-4051)

To recognize the presence of the soul in everyone is to open the road to global peace. Maya Angelou says of it, “While I known myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God’s creation”.

THE CULTURE OF THE ENCOUNTER

Pope Francis believes firmly in the culture of the encounter. The Pope energizes Catholics worldwide by reminding us often that one proclaims the Gospel by the witness of a life that reflects the central elements of Jesus’ message: love, mercy, encounter, inclusion and the preferential option for the poor. **How’re we doing here in San Ignacio?**



LITURGICAL CORNER

With today’s liturgy we begin the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time**, the largest season of the Liturgical Year. **Ordinary Time** is celebrated in two segments: from the Monday following the Baptism of the Lord up to Ash Wednesday; and from Pentecost Monday to the First Sunday of Advent. The liturgical color is green giving rise to **Ordinary Time** often being referred to as **The Long Green Season**. It is considered a single season of the liturgical year despite its interrupted observance.

Ordinary Time: The time of our lives



Many a parent on a long drive has heard little ones ask over and over again, “Are we there yet?” Once “there”, the little ones burst forth with abandon and joy at the arrival. Each Sunday liturgy raises for us the question, “Are we there yet?” but for us, the “there” is not a matter of arriving,

but of reaching. We reach for the God who forgives, loves, teaches, sustains, nourishes. We reach for an eschatological “there” where we meet the risen Christ in all his glory. We reach for the kind of transformation that shapes us into Body-of-Christ-travelers who know our destiny (eternal Life) and how to get there (Gospel living). The importance of the destiny urges us to prepare well for these few moments out of every week that help us reach for an eternity of joy.

During **Ordinary Time** of the 2016 liturgical year, we will read from Luke’s Gospel with its prominent themes of God’s mercy and forgiveness, prayer, and concern for the poor. These themes are played out on a long trip by Jesus and his disciples: the journey to Jerusalem.

Each day this year, then, we might ask, “Are we there yet?” and use the question to assess how we journey. Do we ponder and pray the Gospels in order to learn better how to be faithful followers of Jesus? Do we reach with all our being for the amazing joy that is offered us through our baptism, sharing in Christ’s risen Life? Do we raise grateful hearts to the God who calls us to an everlasting heavenly journey of unequalled grace, of being enveloped in the God of mercy and forgiveness, love and joy, compassion and peace?

Indeed we are embarking on a tremendous journey and may Lady Wisdom, Holy Spirit, be with us on the road.

It takes a lifetime to really understand that God is what is standing in front of me.

— Joan Chittister OSB