

Weekend of June 26, 2022

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This new Mass schedule will stay in effect until the Covid-19 crisis is over. Thanks for your patience.

Barona:

Mass: Tuesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

Confessions: By appointment only

Adoration: 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

Viejas:

Sunday: Sunday. 10:30 AM. @ Church

Confessions: By appointment only.

Sycuan:

Sunday: Sunday Mass 12:30 noon @ the Church

Confessions: By appointment only

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Sue Kierig, Martha Boone, Donna Berardi, Billy, Penny and Daniel Vicaldo, Anthony Pico, Dolly Albano, Mike Montes, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Rosario Ravasco, Minerva Mayor, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Purita Amparo, Wendy Reyes, Abraham Pascual, Richard Padua, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Ruben and Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Elvira Hapin, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Louck, David Ramos, Felix Chiu, Edna De La Cruz Yusi, Marlon Amaranto, Sam Halabo, Anita Uqualla, Bobby Curo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Walter Raczak, Billy Brown, Margie Cruz, Gina Curo

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES (K-High School)

Barona, K-8th: New classes will resume in September. Please contact church office if you would like to register. All classes are a two year program.

Barona, High School: Thursday, 3:00 p.m. (classroom under the club house) – classes will resume in September.

Please contact Judy Oyos (judy.otm@gmail.com) for Adult classes or for more information regarding classes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM, Barona. Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel

Sunday, June 26 – **Peter Pence Collection**, this collection supports the Universal church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Francis to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Envelopes will be in back of the church, thank you for your generosity.

Saturday, July 9 – 12 PM, Los Conejos Mass and Grave Blessing



Choose to follow Jesus wherever he goes. To say “yes” without hesitation requires great trust. The reign of God needs servants to trust.

DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES and SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 800-553-3321

Blessing of Travelers

All-powerful and ever-living God,
When Abraham left his own land
And departed from his own people,
You kept him safe all through his journey.
Protect us, who also are your servants:
Walk by our side to help us;
Be our companion and our strength on the road
And our refuge in every adversity.
Lead us, O Lord,
So that we will reach our destination in safety and happily
return to our homes.

We ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Catholic Household Blessing & Prayers

PASTOR'S DESK

Following Jesus

A reflection on the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is a story in the book of Elizabeth Brenner, entitled *Winning by Letting Go*. Brenner explains how people in India catch monkeys – and catch them alive.

They cut a small hole in a box. Then they put a tasty nut in the box. The hole is just large enough for the monkey to put its hand through. But it's too small for the monkey to withdraw its hand once it has clutched the nut inside.

So the monkey has two choices. It can let go of the nut and go free, or it can hold on to the nut and stay trapped. Monkeys usually hold on to the nut.

The monkey is a good image of us – not in looks, of course, but in behavior. The nut represents certain things, vices and people, which are hard or we don't want to let go. Consequently, we are not free.

This story is somewhat similar to how we humans usually cling to some things that satisfy us and cannot let go of those attachments. The Gospel of this 13th Sunday relates about the failure of the three men who offered to follow our Lord but could not let go of their attachments.

The first man could not follow the Lord due to the economic uncertainty involved. Jesus said that discipleship or following Him entailed material deprivation: "The foxes have holes... but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head" (Luke 9,57). Material deprivation does not necessarily mean depriving ourselves of all material resources but can mean sharing them with those who have less in life. The second and third men turned their backs on Jesus' call because of family obligations ("I will follow You, Lord, but let me first bury the dead." The third said: "Let me say goodbye to my family." Jesus rebukes the second, saying: "Let the dead bury their dead." He adds, "Whoever puts his hand to the plow, but keeps looking back is unfit for the Kingdom of God." What Jesus means here is a single-minded dedication in following Him as shown, for instance, in remaining faithful to one's marital or religious vows in the face of strong temptations to be unfaithful. Or persevering to be honest in an office where bribe-taking is rampant.

If the Lord demands too much from His followers, it is because our faith-relationship with Him is worth dying for. There is no cheap grace. We have to work our salvation by passing through the narrow door. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a minister of the Confessional Church in Germany wrote during the repressive regime of Adolf Hitler in his book *The Cost of Discipleship*: "When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die." He proved this from his own personal experience. Arrested by the Gestapo,

he inspired his guards in prison and concentration camps. He obtained permission to minister to his fellow prisoners and comforted the distressed and depressed. A few days before the liberation of his concentration camp, he was executed. The cost of his discipleship is a powerful lesson against an "easy Christianity."

Obviously, not all Christians are called to give up everything in life. Neither must all become martyrs like Bonhoeffer or religious priests and nuns, but a firm commitment to Christ and what He teaches in our life situations must be a part of our daily Christian living. For instance, there are times when we have to sacrifice our personal comfort in order to minister to the sick, visit the elderly, share with the poor, or listen to the lonely and distressed. Or there are times when we keep our hands to the plow by sticking to our Christian values to be honest in the face of temptations to cheat or accept bribes. We need to ask ourselves: What are the things that hinder me from following the Lord? Is it attachment to work and the pursuit of money so that I have no more time for God and people in need? Is it enslavement to gambling, drinking, or a bad temper? Is it entanglement in an illicit relation?

We need to examine ourselves to find out what those things are which keep us away from the Lord. Otherwise, like that monkey in the story, we cannot be free unless we let go of our hold. If we persist in such a state, we will never experience the peace and happiness that Christ offers to His disciples.

Fr. Bel San Luis, SVD

