

Weekend of July 23

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Barona:

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

Saturday: 5:00 PM mass

Sunday: Sunday 8:00 AM. @ church

Confessions: By appointment only

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

Viejias:

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, Donna Berardi, Vicaldo Family, Mae Guerrero, Susanna Gotell, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Wendy Reyes, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Ruben and Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Loucks, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Walter Raczak, Robert and Margie Cruz, Rick Lechner, Mike Wise, Neil Quizon, Jim Hughes, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, Manny Ilagan, George Arviso, Ernie and Emy Lampa, Rose Ramos, Zita Haygood, Lilly Gautreaux, Mark Noriega, Juan Miguel, Bert Zita, AJ & Angela Samot, Deacon Gene Neral, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, Romero Family, Annie McTavish, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Blanca Lechner
Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes will begin in September 2023.

Please contact church office at 619-443-3412 or bktparish@aol.com for registration papers.

Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM, Barona.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel

****AUGUST****

Saturday, August 5 & Sunday, August 6 – Deacon Charles Navarrete (The Emiliani Project) will be leading mass and sharing his mission work as part of the Missionary Cooperation Plan at each reservation.

Sunday, August 13 - 10 AM, Barona – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary mass, lunch to follow. All reservations invited.



Notes of **THANKS**

A special thank you to Chairman Cody and Alejandra Martinez, Chris and Sharon Pham and the Sycuan tribe and all those who helped with the Feast Day at Sycuan, it was a great time of good food and fellowship.

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE??

You can go directly to bktparish.com or click on the QR code and it will take you to website, click on donations accepted – click here at the top of the page.



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PASTOR'S CORNER

God's Loving Mercy to Everybody A reflection on the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“In the beginning, there was Africa. . .” –these words are echoed in the National Geographic channel, asserting the current scientific findings that humanity’s earliest ancestors hailed from the “Dark Continent.” That we share a common ancestry is a powerful reminder of our shared humanity, and that we all can trace our roots to Africa is a humbling realization that, until we accept the common heritage of ours, we can never fully understand the origin of human existence. In a way, we could say there is an African in each one of us. Or, better yet, we should say, “We are all Africans.”

The Africans of today, have a fitting maxim regarding identity: “We are therefore I am.” This concept has been seen as an antithesis of self-identification, embodied in Rene Descartes’ *Cogito ergo sum* (I think therefore, I am). For the Africans, our identity is not identified not by rational faculty but the people around us. We derive our sense of self from others. Our family, friends, community, village, neighbors are us, and we are them.

This aspect of interconnectivity is highlighted by Jesus in today’s gospel: “If you pull up the weeds, you might pull out the wheat along with them.”

The systemic dependence of one person on another could go so deep that removing an undesirable element from the society could have an inevitable repercussion on the life of some innocent individuals. It is a noble teaching, no doubt but something that could however spell doom to the “wheat,” or put the good people into clear disadvantage. Some of us might even cry foul and point out the unfairness of it all. We

could ask: “What about the wheat?” If the weeds will be allowed to stay along with the wheat, will they not hamper the growth of the wheat? No wonder our penal system exacts separation and endorses isolation of criminals, typified and punctuated by the capital punishment as the ultimate testament to the importance of separating the weeds from the wheat.

Mercifully, the Lord does not advocate extracting the weeds immediately. Mercifully as well, He gave us a way out of an otherwise unfair and potentially changing situation.

The Lord clearly understood the implication of His teaching; hence, He offered us the mustard seed and the yeast analogies, telling us that each one of us, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, has the power and the ability to make a difference in the life of others, even, and should we say, especially to the weeds. The wheat-transformed-into-a-mustard seed (or yeast) can now outgrow and overpower the weeds. We can after all rise up to the occasion and become larger than ourselves. We can cast our nets into the deep and challenge ourselves out of our comfort zones. Like the late Bishop Bienvenido Tuted, we could question and disturb for having arrived in safety because we sailed too close to the shore. “It can only take a few good souls to stand idle and do nothing for the evil to triumph,” another author reminds us.

Actually, we learned this lesson when we were still kindergarten kids. When we were memorizing 26 letters of the alphabet, we already understood that it only takes one letter to boycott and disappear so as to render a word, a sentence and even a book incomplete.

The Africans understood the Power of One long time ago. In the beginning, there was only Africa. Now the whole is populated by a constellation of human beings.

In the beginning, there is only one mustard seed.

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Fr. Narciso Cellan, SVD
University of San Carlos
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