

Homily Summary - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Main Themes:

- God's love is inclusive and calls us to love and serve all people.
- While God includes us all, we must choose to be on His team through our daily decisions.

Key Scripture Passages:

- *Numbers 11:29*: "Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!" Moses shows that God desires everyone to be part of His plan.
- *Mark 9:40*: "Whoever is not against us is for us." Jesus calls us to recognize that God's team is open to everyone.
- *Mark 9:48*: "Where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." Jesus warns about the reality of Hell, showing that our choices have eternal consequences.
- *Matthew 7:14*: "The road to life is hard and narrow, and few there are who find it." Jesus emphasizes that choosing God's way requires effort and sacrifice.

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- *CCC 1037*: "God predestines no one to hell; for this, a willful turning away from God (a mortal sin) is necessary." God wants all to be saved, but respects our free will and choices.
- *CCC 1847*: "God created us without us; but he did not will to save us without us." Salvation is a cooperative process; we must freely choose to follow God.

Practical Reflection:

- God's love includes everyone, but it is up to us to decide whether to follow Him or not.
- Daily life offers us opportunities to choose love, patience, and service over selfishness and division.
- Real riches come from serving others, as warned in *James 5:1-6*, where selfish ambition and wealth without purpose corrupt us.

Connection to the Sacraments:

- **Reconciliation**: God's mercy is always available, even when we fail to include others in our love and service. Through Reconciliation, we receive the grace to start anew.
- **Eucharist**: In receiving Christ in the Eucharist, we are united with all members of God's family, strengthening our call to live inclusively and lovingly.

Reflection Questions:

- Who are you including in your life? Who might you be excluding or dismissing?
- How can you better reflect God's inclusivity and love in your interactions this week?

Mary's Example:

- Mary lived a life of perfect inclusion and service. She said "yes" to God's will and humbly served others, leading people to Christ without forcing them. She models how we can live out divine inclusivity daily.

Rap Summary:

God's love includes, invites, and leads,
To serve each other and meet their needs.
If we choose His way, we'll never fall,
Eternal life—He offers to all.

Encouragement: God loves each of you deeply. By choosing to follow Him, we not only gain Heaven but bring peace, love, and joy into our lives now. Heaven starts here—let's not wait.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>