

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 28, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

The LORD has delivered his people,
the remnant of Israel. (Jer 31:7b)

Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. (Ps 126)

Second Reading:

Every high priest is taken from among men
and made their representative before God,
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. (Heb 5:1)

Gospel:

The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." (Mk 10:51b-52a)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the Week of October 28, 2018

Sunday: Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52

Monday: Eph 4:32--5:8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Eph 5:1]/Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-32/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [1a]/Lk 13:18-21

Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 13:22-30

Thursday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 6]/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

Friday: Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1 or 4ab]/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26/Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef/Lk 14:1, 7-11

Next Sunday: Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 [2]/Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34

Observances for the Week of October 28, 2018

Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

Wednesday: Halloween

Thursday: All Saints (holy day of obligation)

Friday: All Souls

Saturday: St. Martin de Porres, Religious

Next Sunday: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; National Vocation Awareness Week;

Daylight Saving Time ends

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

October 28, 2018 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Son of David, have pity on me!" Has the cry of Bartimaeus ever escaped your lips? Today's Gospel tells the story of a blind man with a difficult lot in life. He made a living by begging coins off passing travelers. When word reaches him that Jesus will be passing by, this is when he begins to shout for mercy. Jesus hears Bartimaeus' cry and beckons him forward.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Last week, Jesus asked a similar question to James and John. Their response was a clutch for fame. Bartimaeus' response is much humbler. "Lord, I want to see." How strange this interaction must have seemed to the onlookers. The man is blind! Of course he wants to see! But Jesus is always teaching us. By asking us what we want, Jesus reveals the dispositions of our hearts. God already knows them, but do we? By asking James and John to name their ambition, their selfishness is exposed to them and to the other disciples. By asking Bartimaeus to name his longing, his faith is exposed to the entire crowd. Jesus invites participation in our own redemption. He doesn't

save us without us!

Take some time in silent prayer today. Place yourself in this story of Bartimaeus. Imagine yourself there on the dusty, crowded roadside. Jesus is calling you! When you stand before him, his focus is on you and you alone. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asks. Search your heart. How would you respond? What part of your heart is Jesus asking you to expose? He has come to heal and to restore. May we, too, be sent! "Go ? your faith has saved you."

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

As Pope Francis has reminded us, it is in living the Beatitudes that we find the path to holiness. The Beatitudes are not a list of do's and don'ts. Rather, they are a road map to finding our way to others and to the kingdom of God. It is when we enter into the human condition with all of its pain and sorrow that we discover again the creative presence of God guiding us to greater wholeness. Being poor in spirit ? being meek and humble ? mourning our sorrow and losses and walking with others through theirs ? hungering and thirsting for righteousness ? being merciful ? maintaining a clean heart ? pursuing peace ? daily taking up the challenge of the Gospel. All bring us into the mystery of humanity and indeed into the mystery of God. The pathway to our relationships and the blueprint detailing our responsibilities are revealed. Are we ready to roll up our sleeves and get dirty?

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

It was many years ago, but I remember it as if it was yesterday. Before most good basketball players left college early for the NBA draft, the Duke Blue Devils won back-to-back championships in men's basketball. The morning after the second championship, I drove to the campus bookstore in order to be one of the first to purchase commemorative T-shirts: one for me and several more for my parents and wife. A crowd was at the door of the store when I arrived, long before it was open for business. When I finally walked inside, I looked around and saw one shirt in particular I liked. I walked over to it, and as I got close to reaching out to pick it up, a little old lady literally ran into me, spun me around, grabbed the shirt, and shrieked, "It's mine!" As if there was only one shirt in the entire store! Neither of us were entitled to that shirt. In fact, we aren't entitled to much in this life. Rather than searching to get what we think we deserve or trying to beat out others for a better position in this world, our God calls us to focus on helping others to experience the many gifts available to them in this life. We are called to serve instead of be served. Our mission is to sacrifice ourselves and what we desire on this earth for the Kingdom of God. If we are willing to essentially assault someone to get to a T-shirt, what will we do when the stakes are higher? After my initial shock, I wasn't really angry with that lady at Duke. After all, I would like to think that if she simply asked me for it I would have given it to her. At least, I hope I would have.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

Around 600 B.C., the prophet Jeremiah foreshadowed the Lord's deliverance of Israel's exile in Babylon. What do you think Jeremiah is teaching us about God's mercy and providence?

Second Reading

Hebrews speaks of Jesus as the eternal high priest who intercedes to God on our behalf. What would be your intercessory prayer to Jesus today?

Gospel Reading

Jesus attributes his healing of the blind man, Bartimaeus, to the depth of the man's faith. Who are the people in your life with strong faith?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

"Joy is the serious business of heaven."

--C.S. Lewis

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

If someone is interested in becoming a priest, how does he go about it?

Answer:

Discerning a vocation can happen in any number of ways. It might come as a surprise to the person called or to family or friends. Sometimes it is a gradual process, and other times it is as quick and bright as lightning. Regardless of how it starts, a vocation to the priesthood or religious life requires a process of discerning, testing, and preparing. The best place to begin would be with lots of prayer, receiving the sacraments, and attending daily Mass whenever possible. Then talk to your pastor or a priest you know and trust. Your diocese may have a vocation director who can provide you with guidance and information. The Serra Club is also a great resource for information and contacts to help you discern if indeed God is calling you.

Remember that many young Catholic men have considered the priesthood. Some are ordained and others realize this is not their calling. However, we are all called to be of service to others as we practice our faith. These are extraordinary times in which we live, and they require an extraordinary witness to faith and to God's presence in the world. Our work, our ministry as Catholics, is to be the body of Christ with and for others. The Church needs priests. If God calls you to ordained service in the church, He will provide the grace, direction, and support you need. Just listen and respond with all your heart, mind, and soul.