

Weekend of September 15
Twenty-fourth 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).
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....

Vicaldo Family, Michele Nikas Beaman, Richard Nikas, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Robert and Margie Cruz, Mike Wise, Neil Quizon, Jim Hughes, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, George Arviso, Rose Ramos, Zita Haygood, Lilly Gautreaux, Mark Noriega, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, Romero Family, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Paolo Espiritu, John Clark, Kevin Bethsayag, Tyre Nichols, Steve TeSam, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Mark Noriega, Carol Richardson, Nancy Rourke, Colleen Crowden, Jeff Ashii, Pamela Nolan CSC, Rosario and Paul Estepa, Haley Price, Mark Marquez, Lulu Cabinatan, Michael Martinez, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC, Caroline Mendoza, Connie Devera, Don Speer, Meta Roubedeaux, Eileen Hansotte, Deacon Clarke, DJ LaChappa

Please check prayer list and add names as desired.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education with Alyssa Parada:

Barona: 3:30 PM

Sacramental Preparation with Mark Price:

Viejas: 3:00 PM

Barona: 4:30 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

SEPTEMBER

Monday, Sept 23 – Thursday, Sept. 26:

Father Herman will be attending the 2024 Convocation for Priests. There will be no morning masses this week.

Friday, September 27 – Indigenous People

Mass, 10:00 AM, Mission San Antonio De Pala, reception to follow. Please wear traditional attire, all are welcome to attend.

“The Lord GOD is my help.” When Christ calls one to follow as a priest or religious, He also gives the strength to overcome the obstacles that are sometimes in the way, but we must ask to receive this strength!

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PASTOR'S CORNER

Mistaken Identity

**A reflection on the 24th Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

The story is about two old friends who met each other after a long time. Unable to remember the identity of his old friend, one of them said: "Gosh, I haven't seen you in years. I can't seem to remember – was it you or was it your brother who died?"

In today's Gospel (Mk. 8, 27-35) Jesus asks His disciples about His identity: "Who do people say that I am?" If identity were a matter of what others say, then there can be a lot of mistaken identity. That is why Jesus further asks: "But who do you say that I am?" A true identity is found not on what "they say," for that is hearsay, but on what "I say."

Beyond "they say," and even beyond "I say," Jesus points out today that true identity is what or who God says we are. Jesus praises Peter for his personal knowledge of Him, but rebukes him for objecting to His true identity to the Father as the Messiah who will have to be rejected and killed and rise again. The bottom line of identity is who or what God says.

How far simpler and convenient to rest our identity on public knowledge or even on personal knowledge. Like Jesus, we must learn to leave the crowd and even those closest to us and ask Him, "Lord, what do you say? What do you ask of me?"

It is clear what God wants: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Often, we would rather please the crowd, or please our friends and loved ones, for they ask of us only so much, while God asks us our very life and heart! The crowd and people around us, we can control and manipulate, while God, we cannot.

It is a clear case of mistaken identity if we leave out the cross in our lives. If you think that Christianity is all about prosperity, bounty and blessings, you are wrong. There will always be sufferings and persecutions if we follow Christ. There is no complete happiness

in this life. Those who never experience, or who shun the cross have a wrong notion about the Christian identity.

Those who have never gone through persecutions and trials, or who have never experienced the "dark night of the soul" have not really experienced the presence, the power and the love of God. Pity those who have money and power, and who have others at their beck and call. How wrong their identity and how false and fragile their security. In time, for sure, all these will crumble and fall.

Speaking of identity, the story is told about a priest who advised an old man to start thinking about the hereafter. To which the old man replied: "Father, I do that all the time. Wherever I am – in the kitchen, in the laundry, in the living room – I ask myself: Now what is it that I'm here after?" Indeed, what is it that we are after in this world and in our lives?

It would be good for the elected and government officials of our land to ask themselves again regarding their identity as public servants. Servants serve the master. Servants do not lord it over the master. Servants are not arrogant and do not belittle the master. Servants do not cheat, lie or manipulate the master. Finally, servants serve at the pleasure of the master, not vice-versa.

We are at peace with our identity when we accept with finality that we are not that good, but also that we are not that bad either. Yes, we are at peace when we stop pretending we are that good, but accept we are not that bad either.

Yesterday was the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross. We must with hope, accept whatever cross comes our way, and believe that the cross will lead us to peace, healing, growth and victory. Instead of questioning or complaining, let us embrace the cross and say: "Lord, I don't understand, but lead on, and take my hand."

Today, September 15 is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. As a woman, as a mother, Mary suffered many untold pains and sufferings, but she embraced the cross and stood by the cross of Jesus till the very end. Let us ask our Mother to help us to be strong,

as we journey in this “valley of tears” confident
and hopeful that our sorrows will turn into joy
someday.

Fr. Gerry Orbos, SVD