

Weekend of February 4, 2024  
***Fifth 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, Wendy Reyes, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Ruben and Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Deloris Loucks, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Walter Rapczak, 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, Juan Miguel, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, Romero Family, Annie McTavish, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Blanca Lechner, 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, Fr. Dominic Asare, SVD  
*Please check prayer list and add names as desired.*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

*Barona: Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.  
with Alyssa Parada*

*Sacramental Preparation with Mark Price are  
ongoing each Wednesday.*

*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*

**FEBRUARY**

**Sunday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>** – Blessing of married couples for Valentine’s Day at all reservations.

**Wednesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** – ASH Wednesday

**Barona** 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM

**Sycuan** 5:00 PM

**Viejas** 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** – Valentine’s Day

**Monday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>** – President’s Day



**It is you who give light to my lamp;  
The Lord my God lightens my darkness.  
-Psalm 18:29**

**PASTOR’S CORNER**

**Jesus, our Healer and Savior**

**A reflection on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

PhD holders are causing confusion in Africa. People call them doctors and when simple village folks hear it, they flock to them with all their health problems. These “doctors” find themselves in a serious predicament as they try to explain that even though they are

called doctors they do not cure the sick. Nobody seems to give a satisfactory answer to the question of the village folks: “If they do not cure the sick, why do people call them doctors?”

In today’s gospel, Jesus finds himself in a similar predicament. Jesus came as savior of the world. The prophet Isaiah had said of him that by his bruises we are healed and made whole (Isaiah 53:4). True to type, in the synagogue he heals a man with an unclean spirit. From the synagogue, he goes to Peter’s house and heals his mother-in-law who has a fever. “That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.... And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons” (Mark 1:32-34). Then, very early in the morning he escapes to a quiet spot to pray. Before he could finish his morning prayers his disciples hunt him down and inform him that an even larger crowd has gathered with their sick and infirm and that everyone is looking for him. You would expect Jesus to say, “Great, now we are in business. Now they are coming. Our strategy is working.” But what does he say? He says no, “Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do” (Mark 1:38).

Excuse me! Proclaim the message? What message is greater than healing the sick and restoring to them their human dignity that has been disfigured by sickness and poverty? Isn’t that essentially what Jesus came for? Well, not exactly. Jesus came to bring good news to the poor (Luke 4:18). This good news is spiritual and material just as the human person is soul and body. But

when it comes to order of priority, the spiritual comes first, then the material. This order is brought out in Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount: “Seek you first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

What Jesus came to do, in other words is to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom of God, to invite all humankind to let God reign as king in their hearts and in their lives, to reconcile us with God and with one another. Much of the sickness, poverty and suffering that exists in our world is traceable to the state of disharmony or sin that separates us from God and from one another. By healing this root cause of all our problems, we find ourselves in a position to receive God’s abundant blessings in all areas of our lives, spiritual as well as physical, moral as well as material, social as well as psychological. But to try to seek physical healing and material well-being without first making peace with God is to miss the point. It is putting the cart before the horse. It does not work. This is probably what the people of Capernaum tried to do with Jesus that morning. So Jesus boycotts them and continues to other cities of Galilee to proclaim the message.

The big crowd that came looking for Jesus that morning went home disappointed. They did not find him. Why? Because they were looking for him for the wrong reasons. They were looking for Jesus simply to get what they wanted; they were not interested in what Jesus came to give. Not that Jesus is not interested in our material welfare. He is. But the spiritual must come first. Like the people of Capernaum, we come to church on

Sunday looking for Jesus. We come with our various problems of soul and body. To avoid disappointment the first thing we need to do is to forget our personal problems and seek the kingdom of God that Jesus came to proclaim. When we find the kingdom of God then God Himself will see to all our other needs of soul and body.

***By Fr Munachi E. Ezeogu, CSSP***