

## Weekend of September 3

*Twenty-second 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 Raczak, 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, Bert Zita, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, Romero Family, Annie McTavish, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Blanca Lechner, Virginia Brynwood, Paolo Espiritu, John Clark, Kevin Bethsayag, Tyre Nichols, Steve TeSam, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Midge Svien, Rogelio Noriega, Carol Richardson, Nancy Rourke, Colleen Crowden, Jeff Ashii, Beverly Means  
*Please check prayer list and add names as desired.*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **PARENTS AND CHILDREN**

Wednesday, 9/6/23 at Barona

Classrooms. – *Meet and Greet the teachers for religious education. Come by anytime between 4-6 p.m. and ask questions, say hello and pick up registration papers.*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

## ***SEPTEMBER***

**Friday, Sept. 1 – Sunday, Sept. 3 –**  
***Ba Barona Powwow.*** *All are welcome to come and enjoy the cultural celebration at the Barona Sports Park.*

**Monday, September 4 – Labor Day**

**Wednesday, September 6 - Religious Education Teachers meet and greet.**  
*Stop by anytime from 4-6 p.m. at Barona church classrooms.*

**Friday, Sept. 8 – Sunday, Sept. 10 –**  
***Sycuan Powwow*** *located on the Sycuan reservation. All are welcome.*

**Sunday, September 10 – 10:00 AM,**  
***Viejas Feast Day,*** *one mass for all reservations. Lunch to follow.*

## **LABOR DAY PRAYER**

*God our Creator,*

*We are the work of your hands.*

*Guide us in our work, that we may do it,  
Not for self alone, but for the common good.  
Make us alert to injustice, ready to stand in  
solidarity,*

*That there may be dignity for all in labor and  
in labor's reward.*

*Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **PASTOR'S CORNER**

### **Following Jesus**

#### **A reflection on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

One of the things that drew me to follow Jesus and become a priest is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as we often say it before and now, it is the Eucharist. When I was young, I loved going with my mother to the Church and attend the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena followed by Mass every Wednesday evenings and with my whole family on Sunday Masses. There was this unexplainable feeling of happiness and joy deep inside of me whenever I attended Mass. I was doubly happy when I became a Knight of the Altar (We call it altar server these days). I served every 6 am at our Holy Spirit Sisters' Convent. For one whole year, I served at Mass and had never been absent. I thank God for the Eucharist and most of all, for calling me to be a priest. Truly the Eucharist gives me joy and uplifts me whenever I celebrate it.

Every day as I celebrate Mass, I see quite a number of the same people coming to Church at 8:00 am. Most of them say the same reasons that I said earlier—they feel so much joy within themselves and they get uplifted every after Mass. Moreover, some say, their day is not complete when they missed it. Well, I have great news for them. In a recent study published in “demography magazine” it was discovered that those who attend church regularly may live 14 years longer than those who don't go to church. The survey indicates that attending church has a positive effect on our physical and mental well-being.

In our readings this Sunday, Jesus takes this concept one step further when he says, “what profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life.” As I recall, the phrase used to be, “and suffer the loss of his soul.” So, obviously, Jesus is referring, today, to eternal life. But there's a problem. Paul points it out when he writes, “do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” When Paul writes, “this age” is he referring to the United States of America, today, or is he referring to the age of the early Christians? Applying “this age” to the moral condition of our present society, it would seem that Paul's words really do

apply to us. If we conform ourselves to this age, our society in the United States, we can ruin our life rather than prolong it. Let's be honest. Following the examples set by the current soap operas or sitcoms seen on television, doesn't mean we'll wind up being perfect or happy. How about the movies? Follow their examples is that a good way to forfeit one's life? Even following the example of some of our political leaders can spell disaster.

So, which advice do we want to emulate, that of Jesus and Paul or that of our modern society? Jesus says, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.” But wait a minute. Surveys indicate those who obey the commandments are healthier and probably happier. If the commandments are the cross we must bear, we must realistically look at the alternative. Do we really want to become liars? Do we want to steal from others? Does any unmarried man or woman look forward to a pregnancy? It seems those who are disobeying God's commandments are the unhappy ones. It doesn't matter what stage in life we may be in... the teen years, young adults, the middle aged or the senior citizens. Christ's words are directed to all of us.

I'm amazed at the peer pressure exerted on the teens and the young adults. It must be extremely difficult to keep one's faith when everyone around us hear a message that seems to contradict Jesus' message. His words tell us not to listen to those who would lead us away from our faith. The path to peace and happiness does not lie in that direction. But, we are free to choose.

The same pressure is being applied to each of us, no matter what age we are. Corporations and individuals are literally spending billions of dollars to get us all involved in activities through which we may “gain the whole world, in a sense, forfeit our eternal life.”

I know that very often younger people will ask, “What's wrong with following the example of my friends? Everybody's doing it so it must be all right.” Well, I would ask those young people, “Would you want your parents to follow the example set by your friends?” The usual response is, “oh, no. That could ruin our family.” That's true, and so Jesus is asking that all of us, young and old, follow Jesus' guidelines.

His promise, today, is simple: “Take up my cross and follow me. Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” If we study “this age”, our society, it would seem that Jesus' words are absolutely true. Those who do not live by his words pay a terrible price but those who follow him seem to be at peace, to be conscious of the really important: Aspects of life ... family ... love of one another and God ... and the joy of sharing the blessings that he has given us

with those less fortunate. And, what is our reward?  
We may live 14 years longer.