

Weekend of September 29

Twenty-sixth 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: 3:00 PM – First Communion Prep

4:15 – All ages Religious Ed

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*



Sunday, October 6 – Children's mass
at all reservations.

Sat., October 19 & Sunday, Oct. 20 –
World Mission Sunday (Propagation
of the Faith) Collection.

In October, we begin a special period dedicated to supporting the missionary work of the Church throughout the world. World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on October 20, and it is an occasion for us to remember our call to be missionaries and support those who take the Gospel to the farthest corners of the earth. Please stay tuned for ways you can get involved and contribute.

Thank you.

The Law of the Lord exists to guide and direct our steps here on earth so that we might arrive safely at the palaces of heaven. Embrace the Law with your whole heart, mind and soul that you might also grow in love the Law-giver.

**DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES AND SISTER
SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 800-553-3321**

PASTOR'S CORNER

Cutting off Our Hand **A reflection on the 26th Sunday** **in Ordinary Time**

There's a joke about a man in prison who was generously donating his bodily organs. He donated first one of his kidneys, then his eye, then an arm. The warden became suspicious and said: "Hey, it looks like you are escaping by installment!"

In the gospel of this 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Christ talks about bodily mutilation – cutting off a hand or foot or even tearing out an eye (cf. Mark 9:43). "If your hand or foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands or feet and go to hell."

In Middle East countries like Saudi Arabia, a robber is punished by the authority with cutting of a finger or hand depending on the gravity of a crime. It's a gruesome penalty but it is an effective deterrent. Wonder if something similar might help reduce crimes in our country?

Physical mutilation, however, is no guarantee that the criminal won't commit crime anymore. Our Lord did not have punitive mutilation in mind when He said, "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off" nor did He wish to be taken literally. His words represent a typically Semitic (Jewish) way of stressing a point by exaggeration called "hyperbole." What he meant was spiritual mutilation. He is saying: Nothing is more important than eternal salvation; no sacrifice is too great in order to attain it.

This may be compared to a man who has a serious infection in the right leg. The doctor tells him that the gangrenous leg has to be

amputated. "It's better for you to lose the leg than to lose your life," the doctor wants to say.

There is a certain amount of tension in the life of every one of us. I am not talking about the stress and anxieties brought on by modern problems. The tension I am referring to is that we are pulled in two directions at the same time – outward toward God and inward toward our selfish selves.

To illustrate the point, there's a certain lady who's been separated from her husband and is carrying on an affair with a married man. The woman knows deep inside that what she's doing is morally wrong but it's hard for her to break the tie. She's confused and unhappy. Her situation is like the rubber band. If you pull it in opposite directions, you create a tension. Once you let go of one end, there is no more tension. That woman in the story decided finally to cut off her relationship with the married man since she was unhappy hounded by the heavy burden of her conscience.

The question for us is: What is that thing or person that you should remove or "cut off"? Is it excessive attachment, say, to money, drinking, gambling, or an illicit relation? One has to honestly admit what it is that is holding him back from God. Then he must pray for the courage to make the supreme sacrifice to give it up – even if it is something or someone as precious as a hand, a foot, or an eye.

If the Lord sounds harsh in saying "cut it off" and so forth, it is for our own good. It is in exchange for eternal salvation.

-Fr. Bel San Luis, SVD

