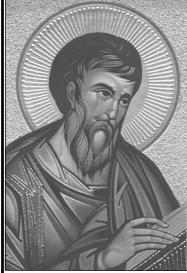


# THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 24, 2006

THE FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SOWN IN PEACE FOR THOSE WHO CULTIVATE PEACE

—James 3:18



## ST. MATTHEW FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

*Today we celebrate the feast day of our patron saint, Matthew, with a special Mass celebration at 10:30 a.m. In addition to this, you are welcome to join fellow parishioners this afternoon for delicious food, lively music entertainment and good old fashioned fun right here in our parking lot! You may purchase food and beverage tickets after Mass today in booklets of five for \$4.00 or ten for \$8.00.*

## FIRST IS BEST?

*"I'm first!" "No, I'm first!" "Mom, tell Ronnie that I get to be first this time!"* From the earliest moments of our lives, there is something ingrained in us that is convinced that first is best. If not chosen first for the sports team, we are immediately deflated. We are coached to be "in first." We spend hours of waiting time in order to be first in line. We are caught in a culture that makes being first the highest priority. Against this backdrop, we come to church and hear a Gospel such as the one proclaimed today from Mark: *"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all"* (Mark 9:35). This is a passage all about power.

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## LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion, euthanasia and the use of the death penalty. We believe that every person is precious.

## RESPECT LIFE BABY SHOWER

Our annual baby shower to benefit the moms and babies at the *Precious Life Shelter*, a crisis pregnancy facility, will begin next Sunday, October 1st, *Respect Life Sunday* and continue throughout the month of October. The following items are needed: receiving blankets, crib blankets, newborn diapers, nightgowns, shirts, onesies, sleepers, booties and socks, bibs, baby wipes, lotion, baby powder and shampoo, Q-tips and small stuffed animals. You may place your new, unwrapped items in the bassinet located in front of the Sacred Heart Altar. Checks may be made out to *Precious Life Shelter* and dropped in the Sunday collection box.

## REFLECTING ON NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

This week you are invited to open your bible and reflect on the next Sunday's gospel reading. The readings for next week are listed below along with two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

- 1) *Who is God for you?*
- 2) *What opportunities do you have to promote or explain your faith?*

## OCTOBER 1 - 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading:** Numbers 11:25-29

**Second Reading:** James 5:1-6

**Gospel:** Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

## COMUNIDAD MEETING

The next Comunidad Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 3rd at 7 PM in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall. The topic of discussion will be a report from the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Gay and Lesbian Ministries (NACDGLM) Conference. Our own David Kennedy who will represent the Los Angeles Archdiocese's Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics (MLGC) will have just returned from the NACDGLM Conference held from September 22nd through 24th. He will present an update of the "State of the Ministries" from a national perspective and give some insights of the problems, issues, and progress being experienced by Ministries across the country. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

