

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JESUS ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING ITS SHAME,
AND HAS TAKEN HIS SEAT AT THE RIGHT OF THE THRONE OF GOD.

AUGUST 19, 2007

— Hebrews 12:2

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's responsorial psalm, Psalm 40, is more familiar to us with the refrain "Here am I, Lord." This "*Here am I*" is Jeremiah's great prophetic response to God's call. But today's story of Jeremiah and the refrain "*Lord, come to my aid!*" reminds us that there are always two sides to following the call of God. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews knew this, too. He reminded his readers that even weighed down with burdens and sins, we can still persevere by keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, who himself knew the shame and pain of the cross, but saw beyond it to the joy of sitting at the right of the throne of God.

Jesus himself gave the disciples a "sneak preview" of a baptism that would not be as wondrous as the one in the Jordan that inaugurated his ministry, but would be one of fire and anguish. Today's words from scripture may not be terribly soothing, but in their honesty and strength we can acknowledge the difficulties of daily discipleship, and take comfort in the assurance of our own salvation in Christ.

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ATTENTION LECTORS, SERVERS, EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Please call in your non-availability dates for the months of September and October by tomorrow, Monday, August 20th. Please e-mail your dates to csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or call 562.491.1217 and leave a message.

REMEMBER ...

to open your bible this week to reflect on next Sunday's gospel reading. The readings for next week are listed below along with a question to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

— THE 21ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME —

FIRST READING: Isaiah 66: 18-21

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

GOSPEL: Luke 13: 22-30

"Lord, will only a few people be saved?" "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many ... will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." What to do? Focus—where? Endure—what? Strive—which way?

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Cindi Eck

PRESENTATION BY FATHER JACK

This Monday, August 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall, Fr. Jack Stoeger will speak about "*Jamaica and Vietnam: Different Perspectives on Life and the Church.*" All are welcome.

EVENTS YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS

Monday, September 10th — Professor Amir Hussain, Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Loyola Marymount University will give a presentation on Islam entitled: *Oil and Water: Two Faiths, One God.*

Saturday, November 10th — All those participating in the various ministries in St. Matthew's parish are invited to a "**Ministry Enrichment Day**" which will be held at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Palos Verdes.

PEACE AND JUSTICE MEETING

On **August 27, Classroom #1 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be planning our activities for the fall and winter and we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

SCHOOLKIDS NEED YOUR HELP

...ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTING

St. Vincent de Paul will be conducting a *backpack drive* to benefit homeless and needy school children. You may help by donating cash toward the purchase of backpacks or, you may donate the backpacks themselves. Collection will take place after the 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass next **Saturday, August 25th and after the 7 and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses on Sunday the 26th.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER

Precious Life Shelter, a homeless residential supportive services program for adult pregnant women needs volunteers. They especially have a need for individuals who might enjoy being mentors or birth coaches for women. They also have an onsite thrift shop that provides approximately 40% of operational costs, which also is in need of volunteers.

To receive more information and dates for volunteer training, please call 562.431.5025.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Roseanne DiZenzo