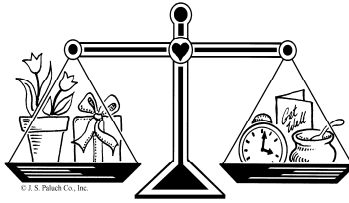


SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JULY 20, 2008
Those who are just must be kind.
—Wisdom 12:19

THE MERCY, POWER, AND LOVE OF GOD

The first reading today, from the book of Wisdom, makes its point over and over, at least five times in five verses! God is mighty, but lenient to all. God's power is shown in kindness and clemency, not in harshness and condemnation, and those who govern God's people must govern in the same way, with kindness. This loving kindness and gentleness is not contrary to God's might, but is a direct result of God's primacy over all. Who are we, then, to judge what is in the hearts of our fellow Christians and all people, when God commands justice with love and clemency?

Likewise, the Holy Spirit makes up for our ignorance of what we need, speaking in a language we do not yet understand. But God knows our needs before we do, understands the intercessions of the Spirit, and helps us in our weakness. This is our hope: God's mercy, power, and love. Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MALCOME MAYES

This Sunday at our 7:00a.m. Mass, Mr. Malcome Mayes is making his Profession of Faith and will receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, thus becoming a member of the Catholic Church. We rejoice with you Malcome, and we thank God for blessing you this way!

SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

for our farewell liturgy and reception for Sr. Dolores Barling. Our celebration of her tenure here will begin at our 10:30a.m. and continue with a reception in the parish hall immediately following.

SHOP TODAY!!!

BUNGALOW MARCASSO home furnishings store at **2720 E. Broadway** will be donating a portion of their sales **TODAY, JULY 20th** to our Comunidad organization. Stop in between 12:00-2:00p.m. for great shopping.

...REFLECTIONS...

The readings for next Sunday, *The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*, are listed below along with questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

SECOND READING: Romans 8:28-30

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:44-52

The gospel tells us the man "rejoiced" at finding the buried treasure. Another writer says, "Joy is the echo of God's life in us." Even in the midst of trials, can I reflect the joy of this great gift of faith?

NATIONAL NEEDS COMBINED COLLECTION TODAY

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS...YOUR GENEROSITY:

- Makes it possible for us to continue strengthening Catholic faith, values and education through The Catholic Communication Campaign's television, radio, and print messages.
- Helps support some of the poorest dioceses in the country that depend on annual collections. Through vital evangelization programs, the Black and Indian Home Mission provides aid to some of the neediest communities.
- Enables us to insure the highest standards of quality Catholic education through The Catholic University of America's exceptional programs of scholarship, research and service.
- Strengthens the Church at home and helps to provide basic pastoral resources and services to needy ethnic communities in scattered and isolated areas through the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

RELIGION AND POLITICS, 2008

On July 31st (only one week from this Thursday) the **Most Reverend George Niederauer, Archbishop of San Francisco** will come to St. Matthew's to discuss the various questions which arise regarding religion and politics. Using the Bishops' document "*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility*," the Archbishop will explore what the church should and should not do in the political arena and under what circumstances a Catholic may, in good conscience vote for candidates who hold views contrary to Catholic teaching. **We begin at 7p.m. in church.**

PLEASE PLAN TO COME AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

VOTER REGISTRATION

Will be available here at St. Matthew's on **August 2/3 and August 9/10 after all the Masses**. The federal law requires you to provide your California driver's license or California ID number or the last four digits of your social security number. Did you know that if you have moved, you need to re-register? You may also register if you will turn 18 years of age on or before election day.

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS PROJECT!!

If you would like to help on this project, please call Claire Marmion at 597.4030. **Spanish speaking folks are needed to assist people after the Spanish Masses.**