

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 31, 2008

“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.

—Romans 12:2

SALVATION

If you’ve ever had an unpleasant but somewhat amusing practical joke played on you, then you have some understanding how Jeremiah feels today when he tells God “good one—you duped me.” We can almost see him shaking his head with a bit of a rueful smile, but an angry undertone in his voice. In similar fashion, Peter thinks Jesus is “duping” him when Jesus starts to explain that being Messiah means suffering and dying, and being a follower of the Messiah means taking up a cross and doing the same. Jeremiah tries to deny God’s will for him by trying to shut up; Peter—who has just been made the foundation of the church—out and out denies the teaching of Jesus, for which he is named “Satan” today. Fortunately for us, Jeremiah comes to realize that to have the word of God placed in your heart means that it will be futile to try and keep silent, even if it means scorn and derision from those around you. Luckily Peter ultimately returned to the faith he professed in last week’s Gospel, and came to understand our need as baptized followers of Christ to follow in his way, even when it means following him to our very death.

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CONGRATULATIONS

to Rosie de la Rocha, an RCIA candidate who will be making her First Holy Communion on Sunday morning at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. May God bless you Rosie and lead you along the path to full participation in the church!

COMUNIDAD MEETING

Our next Comunidad meeting will be held Tuesday, September 2 at 7:00p.m. The program will be presented by Fr. Eugene Herbert, pastor of Annunciation Church in Arcadia. His topic will be *“Got Bread? Called to be a Eucharistic People.”* Fr. Herbert will be the retreat master for the Comunidad retreat scheduled in October. He is a popular and dynamic speaker. Please come to preview what will be presented at the retreat.

TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON GOD’S WORD

The readings for next Sunday, *The Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*, are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout the coming week.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-9

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-10

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus tells us to confront the one who commits wrong—but to keep it between the two people. How can we encourage one another in following Jesus and his teachings?

THANK YOU TO FR. GUILLERMO AND ALL PARISHIONERS

I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of your good wishes, prayers, and very generous gifts at my going-away Mass and reception! Thank you very much for everything. This is truly a magnificent parish community and I am very grateful for having been a part of it for the past eight years. The grace of God is alive and active in you and it has been a joy to see that. I will miss you more than you know.

Gratefully, Sister Dolores

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!!

Beginning next Sunday, our cantor for the 7:00a.m. Mass, Tony Umphenour, will be sleeping in on Sunday mornings! For the past eight years, Tony offered his time and talent as he rehearsed on a weekly basis and then rose in the early hours each and every Sunday morning in order to lead us in prayerful song. We also thank Mr. Kevin Irión for all his help with the coordinating chores for the 7:00a.m. liturgy. It is because of the generous help from parishioners such as Tony and Kevin, that our liturgies are both prayerful and meaningful.

Thank you Tony and Kevin!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

It’s interesting to imagine the scene when the changes in our liturgy were first tested. Choices for prayer texts were one thing, but responses from the people were another. In early 1967, secret test-drives of the new Mass were conducted in the Vatican. Pope Paul VI was present, and there was a handful of bishops, priests, a few lay people and two sisters making up the assembly. Everyone had a booklet with every word of the songs, rubrics, and prayers, blank paper, and a pencil for notes. After each Mass, the ordained men in the group met in the pope’s library to share their experiences. The laypeople and sisters met separately.

Over a week’s time they tested what they called a “read Mass with singing,” a “Mass entirely recited,” and a “Sung Mass.” While the ordained were generally in favor, the lay comments were very clear and insightful, and had great impact on the final result. This was a brilliant plan on the part of the pope, who got to see how the reform was going, and to recognize in this small trial run a growing consensus that reform was needed and welcome. Based on his observation, Pope Paul VI called for specific innovations, such as beginning the Mass with the sign of the cross. It’s amazing that some of our most familiar rites are really quite new treasures of our tradition!

—Rev. James Field