

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YOU CHANGED MY MOURNING INTO DANCING; O LORD, MY GOD, FOREVER WILL I GIVE YOU THANKS.

JUNE 28, 2009

— Psalm 30:13

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

One of the most important prayers ever given was that of July 4, 1861; it was offered at the first and only time Congress ever convened on the Fourth of July in its long distinguished history. The prayer was significant in that it reflected the very troubled times the country faced at the onset of the Civil War.

Almighty and everlasting God, be not angry with us for our sins, which we only confess and deplore; but pardon our offenses and extend to us Thy favor. We thank Thee for Thy goodness on this anniversary of the nation a day tenfold more precious by reason of our present troubles, and sacred to the heart for the ever memorable Declaration of our fathers, in which Thou didst begin more openly to give us a name among the nations of the earth. We thank Thee for all Thy manifold and abundant mercies hitherto to make our nation exceedingly great and glorious; but now disasters have befallen us and darkness broods in the land. And now we ask Thy mercy as the Senate is convening at a most momentous crisis of our history. Give to Thy servants all needed help. Add to their deliberations wisdom and unanimity, and profit and speed to their conclusion. Bless Thy servant, the President of the United States, our veteran Commander-in-Chief, and all that have functions in the civil and military power. May the angel of Thy presence walk in the Cabinet and in the Congress and in the camp, to go before, to purify, and to direct the now greatly and universally-awakened love of country. And we beseech Thee to guide us, to overrule and order all things, and so to cause that nothing shall fail, that the disorders of the land may be speedily healed, that peace and concord may prevail, that truth and righteousness may be established, and that Thy Church and Kingdom may flourish in a larger peace and prosperity, for Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. (Source: *Congressional Globe*, 37th Congress, first session, new series, 1, 4 July 1861 offered by Rev. Byron Sunderland, D.D)

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION TODAY

During his visit to the United States last year, Pope Benedict XVI called upon the U.S. to “*be the first friend of all who suffer*” by “*casting the light of Christ upon the world.*” Your generosity will give emergency relief to those most in need around the globe, who suffer because of war, famine, disease, oppression, or natural disaster. Support the works of the Holy Father in today’s Peter’s Pence Collection.

OFFERING OF LETTERS —THIS WEEKEND

Our annual offering of letters will be sent to our representative in the U.S. Congress in support of HR 2139. This legislation seeks to overhaul U.S. foreign aid and calls on the President to create a national strategy for global development to further reduce poverty and hunger abroad. Handwritten letters are the key to influencing our legislators. We will give you the necessary tools to do your “homework” and count on you to mail them from your home.

MARKET BASKET COLLECTION

Due to a **desperate need of food at the Long Beach Catholic Charities Pantry**, our parish will hold food drives on the first Sunday of every month. **The first collection will take place next Sunday.** A grocery basket will be accessible in the patio area for your donations of non-perishable foods. Items especially needed are dry or canned beans, rice, canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and cereal. It is hoped that all parishioners can donate one or more items each month. **If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please place your donation inside an envelope marked MARKET BASKET COLLECTION and place it in the Sunday collection basket.** Through the concerted efforts of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Comunidad Outreach Group and our Peace and Justice Organization, it is a guarantee that this project will help feed many families in our city! If you do not belong to one of these groups but want to help, please call Linda at 493.9898 or Claire at 597.4030.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The readings for next Sunday, *The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time* are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 2:2-5

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-6

Jesus brought the “good news of salvation” to his hometown and was rejected by most people there. In what ways have I felt rejected or have I rejected others? We pray to see with Jesus’ eyes and hear with His ears.

