

The Work of the People

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We are coming to the end of Ordinary Time that stretches out over thirty-four Sundays. This lengthy stretch of Ordinary Time is indeed a time of praise and thanksgiving when the church lives its apostolic mission. During this season, we are nourished by the "carousel of sayings and stories, songs and prayers in which the mysterious ways of God are not merely presented but experienced, not merely perused but lived out." (Mark Searle, *"Sunday: The Heart of the Liturgical Year"*)

The reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah is probably familiar to us as the Good Friday reading about the suffering servant of God. From early times, the Christian church has applied this image to Jesus. The prophecy of a servant who would redeem Israel through suffering is unique among prophetic books. In Isaiah's imagination and poetry, the suffering servant enhanced the "new creation" God was working out.

The reading from the Letter to the Hebrews points to Jesus as the great high priest. In Judaism, the high priest passed through the Temple curtain once a year on the feast of Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement and entered the holy of holies. There he interceded to God on the people's behalf. This passage emphasizes the compassion and understanding that Jesus has for us because he is like us in all ways except sin.

Immediately preceding the Gospel for today, Jesus declares for the third and last time that he must suffer, die (like the servant in Isaiah), and rise. Now, as he nears the end of his journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, which Mark depicts as his way to the cross, he knows the time has come to fulfill the most difficult part of his mission. James and John, more concerned with their personal ambitions for glory, ask Jesus for the top places of honor in his kingdom.

The reflection for this week is from Rachelle Linner who is a freelance writer, reviewer, and spiritual director.

Jesus must have known what was in their hearts when James and John approached him with such astonishing audacity. Surely he had seen their ambition, their competitiveness with Peter, seen how their love for him and desire to be with him was tainted by self-interest and pride. It would have been an obtuse request at any time,

but especially after Jesus had pre-dicted, for the third time, his Passion. Their words must have rubbed salt into his loneliness, a bitter reminder of his failure to convince even his own disciples of the way of radical self-giving.

But because Jesus is a great high priest who can "sympathize with our weaknesses" he asks them, with generosity, patience, and openness, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

He asks us the same question every time we approach him in prayer. He really wants to know. In the silence of his waiting we speak our desires. Or do we? Are we willing to be transparent before Jesus? Surely he knows us as well as he knew his disciples. Will he think less of us if he hears our competitiveness? Do we hide behind fig leaves of respectability? Do we blush with shame when we hear what we want? Can we hear the unspoken supplication behind our prayer, when a blessing for us is a curse for our neighbor?

Jesus' silence allows us to be honest. And then he teaches us what it means to imitate him, even unto death. An ignoble death on a Cross that was the doorway to Paradise—for a penitent thief and for us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Tm. 4:10-17b/Lk. 10:1-9
 Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Lk. 12:35-38
 Wednesday: Rom. 6:12-18/Lk. 12:39-48
 Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Lk. 12:49-53
 Friday: Rom. 7:18-25a/Lk. 12:54-59
 Saturday: Rom. 8:1-11/Lk. 13:1-9
 Sunday: Jer. 31:7-9/Heb. 5:1-6/Mk. 10:46-52

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

While many good books abound on marriage and parenting, Jesus tells us in today's gospel the real secret: satisfying relationships depend on how well we sacrifice our needs to serve others. It is not about "getting," its about "giving" ourselves.

CONGRATULATIONS to Anne Meszaros who was confirmed on Tuesday, October 12th at St. Anthony of Padua Church. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you.

*"Lord, help me to seize the grace
 you offer me today"*

WORSHIP

Monday, October 18
 8:00 am + Jim Rasavage (Family)
 Tuesday, October 19
 8:00 am + Josephine Haluch
 (James & Karen Mott)
 Wednesday, October 20
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Dale Haibach
 (John & Kay Weagraff)
 Thursday, October 21
 8:00 am + Wanda Pilarczyk (Chuck & Judy Metzler)
 Friday, October 22
 8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak (Phyllis Irene)
 Saturday, October 23
 4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners
 Sunday, October 24
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Richard Baker (Shirley A. Knierman)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Anthony Bostaph (Rebecca Wickware)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, October 18
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO
 Tuesday, October 19
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Thursday, October 21
 6:00 pm - Finance Meeting
 6:45 pm - Pastoral Council Meeting
 Saturday, October 23
 3:30 - 4:15 - Confession (or by appointment)
 Sunday, October 24
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession

NOTE: On Saturday, October 30 and Sunday, October 31 we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick at all Masses. Those who wish to receive the sacrament are asked to sit in the designated pews so that Fr. Mark may easily get to you.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$395.00
TOTAL	\$395.00
Catholic Services Appeal Pledged: \$7,040 Paid: \$6965	

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On October 23-24 of this year, the Church will mark the annual celebration of World Mission Sunday both liturgically and with a collection for missions and missionaries throughout the world. The theme for this year's celebration comes from the New Testament words of St. Peter and St. John: "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20)

Our Holy Father invites us again to share our zeal: to speak about our faith, about our passion for mission, and about supporting the more than 1,100 mission dioceses throughout the world. He reminds us that "as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves" as we "recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel."

I invite all of us in the Diocese of Erie to view World Mission Sunday as a special moment of encounter with our neighbors throughout the world. Let us also remember those clergy, religious and lay leaders who give so generously of their time in testimony to the faith we share. I ask you to support their efforts through your prayers and financial means as you are able. I thank you in advance for your generosity and assure you of my prayers as we all work together to serve our Lord and one another.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of Erie

OPEN HOUSE

Cathedral Prep's Open House for middle school boys and girls, will be held on Sunday, October 31 from 10am - 2pm. There is an optional mass beforehand at 9:30am in the auditorium. Guided tours will be conducted. Learn how to graduate from Prep with a semester or more of college completed and about the millions in financial aid! Students in attendance will be entered in a drawing for tuition discounts.

Cathedral Prep is located at 225 W. 9th St., Erie, PA. Please call 814 453-7737 ext. 3 with questions or email tim.dougherty@prep-villa.com

THANK YOU to all who so generously donated to Rev. Delroy Simpson and his family who lost most all of their possessions in a house fire. We were able to present them with a check for \$600.00. They are very grateful.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$835.00
Maintenance	225.00
Candles	47.00
Simpson Donation	<u>419.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,526.00
Catholic Service Appeal Pledged: \$28,505 Paid: \$26,288	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
