

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World
& for Peace.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – The wealthy man in this weekend's Gospel was short-sighted. He had always tried to live a God-centered life, but his routine prevented him from realizing that his vision of life was blurred. Jesus recognized someone who generously shared his riches, but perhaps was less ready to share his heart. If only the young man would share his heart, he could permanently transform his life.

As it was, the young man already had a sense that he could do something over and above the good deeds in which he was involved. If this were not so, he would not have asked Jesus' advice on what else he needed to do in order to gain eternal life. He had asked the right question, but he wasn't prepared for the answer. The young man wasn't ready to make the changes necessary to follow Jesus's' difficult and itinerant, crowd-filled lifestyle. Up to this point, he had probably lived in a comfortable home, but now Jesus was suggesting that he should, instead, go into the highways and byways deliberately searching for those who needed his compassion, people whom he might otherwise never have seen. The man wasn't ready for such a sacrifice. He wanted to be good on his own terms. He chose to remain short-sighted rather than to follow Jesus' prescription.

It's not easy to make the changes forced upon us by circumstances such as the need for surgery, changing jobs, or moving to a new school, or even to a new house. Yet those massive changes in our practical daily life can sometimes be easier than making the alterations which might bring us closer to God. One set of modifications might involve, not only the heart, but also the purse and bank balance. The other adjustments touch us in the deepest areas of our hearts and souls, perhaps changing for ever our self-understanding and our understanding of other people. The alterations which bring us closer to God affect our lifestyle and relationships. They have a frustrating habit of setting us on an unknown road towards an unknown destination with few signposts to guide us. And that can be scary.

"It's easier to be a live coward than to be a dead hero." We live with the consequences of our choices. We don't know if the rich young man eventually decided to give everything away in order to follow Jesus, but we do know that he was scared to accept the challenge which Jesus offered him. If Jesus had been a coward, we'd never have Good Friday, but we'd also never have Easter Sunday or Pentecost. Perhaps Jesus took deep breaths before making choices that He knew His Father wanted in order to bring about our salvation. We do know that Jesus entered into prayer often – especially before any major decisions (such as choosing the 12 Apostles). The way of the cross was no day trip to the seaside. If the rich young man was scared, Jesus was probably terrified by the prospect of what lay before him. It puts our own life choices into perspective.

Saints for the week –

Oct 11 - Pope St John XXIII - was head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 28 October 1958 until his death in 1963. Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was one of thirteen children born to a family of sharecroppers who lived in a village in Lombardy. He was ordained to the priesthood on 10 August 1904 and served in a number of posts. Roncalli was unexpectedly elected pope on 28 October 1958 at age 76 after 11 ballots. Pope John XXIII surprised those who expected him to be a caretaker pope by calling the historic Second Vatican Council (1962–1965), the first session opening on 11 October 1962.

John XXIII made many passionate speeches during his pontificate. His views on equality were summed up in his statement, "*We were all made in God's image, and thus, we are all Godly alike.*" He made a major impact on the Catholic Church, opening it up to dramatic unexpected changes promulgated at the Vatican Council and by his own dealings with other churches and nations. In Italian politics, he prohibited bishops from interfering with local elections, and he helped the Christian Democratic Party to cooperate with the socialists. In international affairs, his "Ostpolitik" engaged in dialogue with the communist countries of Eastern Europe. He especially reached out to the Eastern Orthodox churches. His overall goal was to modernize the Church by emphasizing its pastoral role, and its necessary involvement with affairs of state.

He did not live to see the Vatican Council to completion. His cause for canonization was opened on 18 November 1965 by his successor, Pope Paul VI, who declared him a Servant of God. On 5 July 2013, Pope Francis – bypassing the traditionally required second miracle – declared John XXIII a saint, based on his virtuous, model lifestyle, and because of the good which had come from his having opened the Second Vatican Council. He was canonized alongside Pope John Paul II on 27 April 2014. John XXIII today is affectionately known as the "Good Pope" and in Italian, "*il Papa buono*".

BULLETIN REFLECTION by Father Rody
OCT 10 2021...28TH SUN YR-B...MK 10, 17-30

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

To start with, I wish to salute this man on verse 17 for he is after the term eternal and not the temporary. How many of us nowadays could raise the same question since most of the time we are preoccupied with the things of the world?

As we start entertaining this thought, I would think mankind has started his way up realizing the answer to this question. But in the process, I also know that mankind would encounter frustration and difficulties that may lead him to giving up. Thus, another idea may be entertained 'The spirit is willing but the body is weak.' So, he says to himself 'Let me address my body first which is experiencing weakness now after which I will deal with my spirit.'

Now, where is mankind...what is he engrossed with...is he still interested in his search for the answer that would lead him to eternal life?

We are so much preoccupied with the things of this world to the point of forgetting that desire to have intimate relationship with our God. By way of statistics (generally) it says, 'at young age of mankind God is not their priority and at the old age of mankind God now becomes their priority.'

By way of cross referencing, let us read Mt. 19, 16-22 and on verse 20 (**The young man said to him**, "All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?") and **verse 22 (When the young man heard this statement**, he went away sad, for he had

many possessions.). This is only one of the examples that would corroborate the statistics and in fact they (Mk 10, 17-30 and Mt 19, 16-22) narrate the same theme.

Now mankind, we face again the question 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' Shall we be like him going away from our Lord with sad face? Or, put on a smiling face and tell our Lord 'Please help me make it through.'

