

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Scripture Reflection by Father Dave

This is the third week that we have read from the 10th chapter of Mark's Gospel, a chapter that makes painfully clear what being a disciple entails. James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were anxious to share the glory of Jesus in His kingdom. Clearly, they did not understand what they were asking for. Yes, they said that they were prepared to do whatever Jesus would have to do, but they were thinking about the worldly power and prestige that would come through their association with Jesus. They had yet to learn the lesson that the kingdom of Jesus does not confer wealth and status. On the contrary, the reign of God can only come about through humble service. The first places in God's thinking belong to those at the bottom rather than those at the top.

Centuries earlier, the prophet Isaiah had foreseen that the leadership of Israel would no longer be in the hands of self-serving kings, but in those of a servant of God who would be prepared to suffer for the sake of God's people. Jesus fulfills not only this new way of being a leader, but also becomes a new model of priesthood, as we read in today's second reading. He is the supreme high priest Who has access not simply to the Holy of Holies in the Temple, but direct access to God Himself as He offers the sacrifice of His own blood in redemption for all of us. We can have absolute confidence, then, in Jesus – the servant king, the supreme high priest, Who came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

What motivates us? Why do we do what we do? Are we like the Apostles who squabble over positions of power, or are we ready to follow the example of Jesus and being a servant to others? As His followers, are we moved to give of ourselves so that others may have a better life? Do we feel a human connection with people whose lives are in crisis for whatever reason? The choice to put ourselves at the service of others will never be easy. What will other people think?, may go thru our minds. Is it a waste of a life when there is so much else that can be experienced in the world today?

As followers of Jesus, we have the great reassurance that He has not only modelled a life of humble service and encouraged us to follow His example, He is now our intercessor in the presence of God the Father when we are in need of help. So today – and every day – let us renew our commitment to follow Jesus in the way of humble service of those who need our help. Look around yourselves often. Is there someone who could use a word of encouragement, a pat on the back, a financial lift during difficult times? Is there someone we could befriend and visit on a regular basis – someone who lives alone and would welcome the company? Let's follow the example of Jesus and put others before ourselves – in doing so we are extending the message of hope that Jesus came to give all of us.

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

Saints for the week –

October 18 – St Luke – born of a pagan family, St Luke became a convert to the Christian faith. He accompanied St Paul on his second missionary journey and was with the apostle during his final imprisonment in Rome. Paul calls him “my dear friend Luke” in one of his epistles.

Luke compiled the third Gospel. He describes at length the infancy of Jesus and emphasizes the Lord's prayerfulness and his mercy. The great parable of the Prodigal Son is found in Luke. The evangelist writes sensitively of Jesus' regard for women as well as his interest in the underprivileged and the outcasts of his society.

Luke also wrote “Acts of the Apostles” which begins with the Ascension of Jesus and conveys the early and struggling days of the Church under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

October 19 – St Isaac Jogues, St John DeBrebeuf & companions – eight members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) six of them priests and two lay associates, were killed in North America by Indians from the Huron and Iroquois tribes between the years 1642 and 1649.

October 22 – St John Paul II - Pope John Paul II was the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 1978 until his death in 2005. He was elected pope by the second papal conclave of 1978, which was called after John Paul I, who had been elected in August to succeed Pope Paul VI, died after 33 days.

John Paul II attempted to improve the Catholic Church's relations with Judaism, Islam, and the Eastern Orthodox Church. John Paul II was the second-longest-serving pope in modern history after Pope Pius IX. Born in Poland, John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope since the 16th-century Pope Adrian VI. John Paul II's cause for canonization commenced one month after his death with the traditional five-year waiting period waived. On 19 December 2009, John Paul II was proclaimed venerable by his successor, Benedict XVI, and was beatified on 1 May 2011 (Divine Mercy Sunday). He was canonized on 27 April 2014 (again Divine Mercy Sunday), together with John XXIII.

It is traditional to celebrate saints' feast days on the anniversary of their deaths, but that of John Paul II (22 October) is celebrated on the anniversary of his papal inauguration.

BULLETIN REFLECTION by Father Rody
OCT 17, 2021...29TH SUN YR-B...MK 10, 35-45

36 He replied, “What do you wish [me] to do for you?”

Mankind, if you were to answer the above mentioned question, what will your answer be...what will you ask your God?

So mankind starts making a bucket list...’It’s okay just sit down reflect and give me later your list’ says the Lord. Then mankind said, ‘let me sing first my God.’

*People making lists
Buying special gifts
It's a time to be
kind
To one and all
It's that time of
year
When good friends
Are dear
And you wish you
Could give more
Than just presents
From a store*

My God there are two things I wish to ask you...just keep loving me despite my unworthiness and with this pandemic please help us get through it without giving up on our faith.