



“When you are invited, go and take the lowest place. When the host comes to you, he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’” Luke 14

THIRTY-FIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

On the **Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**, we celebrate **the Solemnity of All Saints** transferred from Monday. From the Book of Revelation we read of “a great multitude” that stood before God. “These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress...” Matthew’s Gospel offers us the Beatitudes: simple words but challenging teachings.

Tuesday is the **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)**, and Thursday is the **Memorial of Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop**.

During the regular readings this week, we conclude a four-week series of first readings from **Paul’s Letter to the Romans**. He reminds us, “Who has known the mind of the Lord?”

In the **Gospel according to Luke** we see Jesus living out his daily life with challenging honesty. He calls us to extend an invitation out of our hearts, not with an eye on an invitation in return: “invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.” Then Jesus tells the parable of the invited guests who made excuses to decline the invitation. He sends his servants to invite everyone. Jesus tells a crowd that they have to renounce their possessions to be his disciple and that to do something really important, we have to prepare and be ready. When the religious leaders complain, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them,” Jesus tells parables of the man who finds his lost sheep and the woman with the lost coin, both of whom rejoice

in finding what was lost. A steward protects himself by pardoning those who owe his master. We end the week with Jesus asking which is more important, God or money? “No servant can serve two masters.” ***Listen to the priest break the Word for us to receive more.***

On the **Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mark’s Gospel** has us listen to Jesus contrast a scribe (the professional interpreters of the law in his day) who enjoys honours for himself, with a poor widow who donates to the temple poor box the little she has. The woman’s generous heart must have moved him deeply.

DAILY PRAYER THIS WEEK

This week guides us deep into our faith in several ways. With the Solemnity of All Saints, we are reminded of all the women and men whose faithful living of the Gospel is so clear that we are sure we can imitate their lives. These are all the named saints. It would be great to name the saints whose example we desire to shape our lives. All Souls day gives us the opportunity to remember and pray for all our sisters and brothers who have died. We confidently hope and pray that they may be embraced by the love and mercy of God, poured forth in the life-giving death and resurrection of Jesus. This is a wonderful day to name all those we want to pray for, and to include in our prayer those who have no one to pray for them.

As we go about our very busy lives this week, we can continue to practice focusing our attention on an ongoing conversation with our Lord throughout the day.

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>

QUOTABLE ITEMS

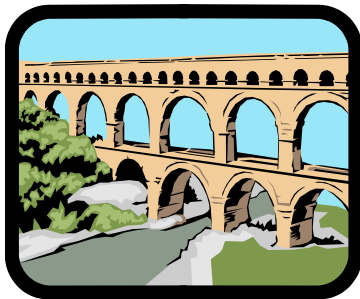
The man who moved the mountain began by carrying away small stones. [Chinese proverb]

I am so overwhelmed by the thought of the work that lies ahead that I will find it impossible to make space for the one hour in prayer. So now I must find time for two hours of prayer.
Mother Janet Stuart

“Ready am I to go, and my eagerness with sails full set awaits the wind.” (The Prophet)

If you have not often felt the joy of doing a kind act, you have neglected much, and most of all YOURSELF. A Neilan

Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone or as we know him Francis of Assisi, was watering his garden. When asked what he would do if he were to suddenly learn that he was to die at sunset that day. He replied, ‘I would finish watering my garden.’



AQUEDUCT

Our life in Christ can be compared to an aqueduct, the stone waterways that brought water from nearby mountains into parched cities in Italy and Spain, and that are still used in some countries today. The foundation of our spiritual lives, the Word of God, is like the huge stone aqueduct itself. Our daily experience of Christ through the Word, is like the fresh water flowing through the aqueduct, bringing new life to the many, including ourselves.

JESUS SAID ABOUT RELATIONS WITH OTHERS – Flor McCarthy SDP – Spirituality 2007

Jesus spoke about the loneliness experienced by those who are disconnected from God and said that those who are connected with God are never alone. (Luke 15:14-16; John 16:32)

He contrasted the anxiety that afflicts those who set their hearts on material things with the serenity enjoyed by those who set their hearts on the Kingdom of God. (Mt 6:25-34)

He contrasted the warped priorities of those who purify their hands but not their hearts with the sound priorities of those whose first concern is to purify their hearts. (Mt. 23:25-26)

He contrasted the industry and astuteness of the children of darkness with the laziness and inertia of the children of light. (Lk 16:1-8)

He contrasted the pitifulness of those who work only for their wages with the blessedness of those who work with love. (John 10:11-13)

He said that those who glory in having others at their beck and call are the least in the Kingdom, whereas those who glory in serving others are greatest in the kingdom. (Mt 20:24-28)

He declared that those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. (Lk 18:14)

He declared that a disciple whose life doesn't bear witness is like a lamp that is placed under a tub, whereas a disciple whose life does bear witness is like a lamp that is placed on a lampstand. (Mt 5:15-16)

He declared that looking for goodness from the person who is false is like looking for grapes from thorns or figs from thistles, whereas looking for goodness from the person who is genuine is like looking for good fruit from a good tree. (Mt 7:15-20)

He declared that it is dangerous for a disciple to be popular, and that it is a blessing for a disciple to be persecuted in the cause of right. (Lk 6:26,22-23)

*Today let there be quiet moments
when I can rest in your presence,
and sit for a while at your feet,
and be still,
and simply listen. Amen*