

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 6, 2016

This past Wednesday Arlene and I returned from a wonderful pilgrimage with Fr. Richard, some of the most holy and special sites in all of Italy. We walked the ancient streets of Venice and rode in a gondola. We experienced Masses in several churches, basilicas and cathedrals. We walked where St. Anthony, St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare ministered and called home. We experienced the awesome blessings of passing through the holy doors of all four basilicas in Rome. The tour of the lower levels of St. Peter and the private tour of the Sistine Chapel were beyond description. The Sunday audience with Pope Francis in St. Peter Square was breathtaking. This was truly another life changing experience. Yet this will all pale in comparison to what we will experience in heaven when our brief journey on this side of life is completed. Colton Burpo, a child featured in the book and film, "Heaven is for Real" describes heaven as exceeding our wildest dreams. Think of your best day ever, your greatest experience, the greatest scenery you ever laid eyes on, the greatest miracle witnessed and it will pale in comparison to our life in eternity. Many speak of this being our ultimate destination through our brief time on this side of life, yet we spend so much time on other things.

In the Gospel today the Sadducees, who did not believe in heaven, spend time talking about earthly realities. They are not interested in what Jesus has to say, but are trying to trap him, as so many did. Jesus is quick to put their earthly limitations into perspective. Heavenly relationships will be secondary to the bliss that will be experienced.

We are humbled and awestruck at the faith and perseverance of the woman in the first reading. Rather than violate the precepts of her Jewish faith she and her sons were true to the death. We cannot even imagine the pain and horror of watching each of her seven sons, one by one, being executed. How many of us would be able to do as she did? Being true to her faith was just as important as the earthly relationship she had with her sons. Being with them in eternity exceeded the joy of being a mother to each of her sons here. She knew what was important even in the face of unimaginable tragedy.

In the second reading we are given hope. "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage our hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word." We pray that we will be given the grace and encouragement to truly focus on what is really important, to make daily decisions that lead to the kingdom, to move the needle of our life toward

what God meant each and every one of us to be. We look forward to focusing on what really matters and not just the trivia of the here and now. We spend so little time here on this earth so we want to make the very best of it to prepare for our life in eternity. We put our salvation in the hands of our savior, his love, mercy and goodness.

One of the goals of each of us is to help get our loved ones to heaven. Spouses made that promise on the day of their consent. Each day that we sacrifice for the other, each day we put another first, each day we wish the best for the person sitting next to us we are living out that vocation. Many of our loved ones who passed, and who we remember this month on our banner and in our book of remembrance, did just that.

Each of us is called to bring others to Christ, each in our own way. For many of us it is praying in public, standing up for our values when confronted. For this church it is also displayed in our willingness to promote Catholic education by our devotion and financial support of St. Michael School so that our children and grandchildren will receive and be immersed in Christian values. This weekend we also welcome those who have begun their faith journey as catechumens and candidates. May we pray for them and welcome them. We also welcome our new altar servers to their ministry this weekend who were trained last month.

Two days from now many of us will vote. As Catholics it is our obligation to vote, even though the choices this year leave a lot to be desired. This year, when we vote, let us consider our Catholic values as primary, with our eyes on our ultimate goal, not whom we are affiliated with, not who pays our bills, not necessarily the way we voted in the past, not just for short term gain, not just because it helps the here and now. We need to focus on what is best for the common good, how God would have us vote. As has been stated there are Catholic voting guides at the entrance of our church. If you have not already done so view the video or the text by Father John Lankeit from the Diocese of Phoenix.

So on this 32nd Sunday we are called to focus on eternity that is so beyond our imagination and wildest dreams. Let our decisions, our speech, our habits, our use time, treasure and talent entrusted to us, our entire daily life reflect on our ultimate goal. Let it be our response to the love, mercy and goodness of our Lord and Savior. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 156

Reading 12 MC 7:1-2, 9-14

It happened that seven brothers with their mother were arrested and tortured with whips and scourges by the king, to force them to eat pork in violation of God's law. One of the brothers, speaking for the others, said: "What do you expect to achieve by questioning us? We are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors."

At the point of death he said: "You accursed fiend, you are depriving us of this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up to live again forever. It is for his laws that we are dying."

After him the third suffered their cruel sport. He put out his tongue at once when told to do so, and bravely held out his hands, as he spoke these noble words: "It was from Heaven that I received these; for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him I hope to receive them again." Even the king and his attendants marveled at the young man's courage, because he regarded his sufferings as nothing.

After he had died, they tortured and maltreated the fourth brother in the same way. When he was near death, he said, "It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by him; but for you, there will be no resurrection to life."

Responsorial Psalm PS 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15

R. (15b) **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

Hear, O LORD, a just suit;
attend to my outcry;
hearken to my prayer from lips without deceit.

R. **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

My steps have been steadfast in your paths,
my feet have not faltered.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me; hear my word.

R. **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye,
hide me in the shadow of your wings.
But I in justice shall behold your face;

on waking I shall be content in your presence.
R. **Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.**

Reading 22 THES 2:16-3:5

Brothers and sisters:
May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement
and good hope through his grace,
encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed
and word.

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us,
so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified,
as it did among you,
and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people,
for not all have faith.
But the Lord is faithful;
he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one.
We are confident of you in the Lord that what we instruct you,
you are doing and will continue to do.
May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God
and to the endurance of Christ.

AlleluiaREV 1:5A, 6B

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**
Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;
to him be glory and power, forever and ever.
R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

GospelLK 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection,
came forward and put this question to Jesus, saying,
“Teacher, Moses wrote for us,
*If someone's brother dies leaving a wife but no child,
his brother must take the wife
and raise up descendants for his brother.*
Now there were seven brothers;
the first married a woman but died childless.
Then the second and the third married her,
and likewise all the seven died childless.
Finally the woman also died.
Now at the resurrection whose wife will that woman be?
For all seven had been married to her.”
Jesus said to them,
“The children of this age marry and remarry;
but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age

and to the resurrection of the dead
neither marry nor are given in marriage.
They can no longer die,
for they are like angels;
and they are the children of God
because they are the ones who will rise.
That the dead will rise
even Moses made known in the passage about the bush,
when he called out 'Lord,'
the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob;
and he is not God of the dead, but of the living,
for to him all are alive."

OrLK 20:27, 34-38

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