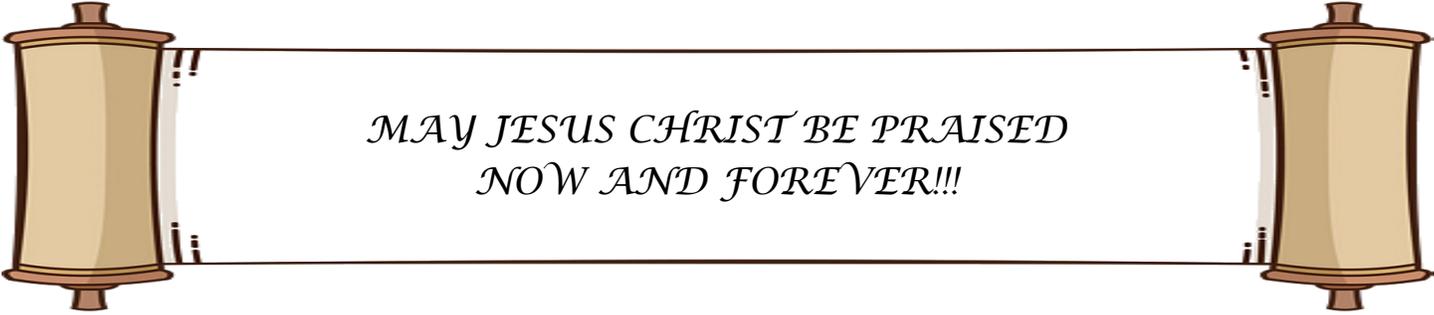


September 15, 2019 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time



*MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED
NOW AND FOREVER!!!*



SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Pinterest Church

For the month of September, I am sharing with you some interesting articles I found on the internet using Pinterest. Quotes from the articles will be in bold and my commentary will be normal font.

Here is the summary of a presentation on "The 4 Pillars of Stewardship" by the Diocese of Wichita, KS. That I found on Pinterest.

1. Hospitality - leads to a sense of ownership in the parish. This "ownership" and personal involvement fosters a sense of belonging. When parishioners experience a warm and sincere welcome, they in turn become open to giving of themselves to others. When we are recipients of such love from others, we are attracted to follow their example.

This pillar made me think of the following quote from Mother Teresa: "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." So just as people will do anything not to end up physically poor, they will do even more to avoid being lonely. We should therefore devote ourselves to wiping out loneliness in our world today. I remember as a young boy searching for a Boy Scout troop to join because our parish was too small to have its own. We went to Parish A and did not feel welcome and spent the two-hour meeting feeling alone. We then went to Parish B and were shown hospitably and made to feel a part of the group. We of course chose to go to Parish B. We know people are looking for places to belong and so we should be providing them with spaces to belong.

2. Prayer - purifies and intensifies the intention of the steward. Prayer increases our yearning to receive the Eucharist. It is in the Eucharist where we recognize our total dependence upon God for everything. At the heart of the steward's prayer is "thy will be done."

The following quote from Mother Teresa comes to mind: "If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives: Be kind anyway. If you are successful you will win some false friends and true enemies: Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank people will try to cheat you: Be honest anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight: Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous of you: Be happy anyway. The good you do today, will often be forgotten by tomorrow: Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough: Give your best anyway." When I pray I become more and more the person God wants me to be and we know that will include someone who is a good steward of the gifts God has given me.

3. Formation - the steward sees his gifts are meant to be shared, not buried. The formation of each individual becomes part of the formation of the parish community. Inherent in each individual is the need to give - to move from selfishness to selflessness. Stewardship formation is a life-long journey educating the mind and converting the heart. Every parish organization has a role in faith formation.

God's ways are not our ways. The following passage from St. Paul's Letter to Philippians (5-11):

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that

Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

It takes a lot of work surprisingly not to “deem equality with God.”

4. Service - the parish stewardship family stands ready and eager to help others when they suffer and celebrate special events. If a parishioner finds they can be served and ministered to, they have little need to search for fulfillment elsewhere. Service is the concrete way to put the other three pillars of hospitality, prayer, and formation into practice.

Actually, doing service is where we can prove to others that we have the heart of a servant and that we are willing to follow Jesus foot washing example.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

Kenneth Bailey, in his penetrating explanation of Luke’s story, shows that the son’s manner of leaving is tantamount to wishing the father dead. – Nouwen

Monday

The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen. - Gilbert K. Chesterton

Tuesday

The problem of disbelieving in God is not that a man ends up believing nothing. Alas, it is much worse. He ends up believing anything. - Gilbert K. Chesterton

Wednesday

“I have often wondered why people never want to put a stone monument of the Eight Beatitudes on a courthouse lawn. Then I realize that the Eight Beatitudes of Jesus would probably not be very good for any war, any macho worldview, the wealthy, or our consumer economy.” — Richard Rohr,

Thursday

Our happiest times are those in which we forget ourselves, usually in being kind to someone else. That tiny moment of self-abdication is an act of true humility: the man who loses himself finds himself and finds his happiness. Fulton J. Sheen

Friday

Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real. - Thomas Merton

Saturday

Even if we stand at the very summit of virtue, it is by mercy that we shall be saved. - Saint John Chrysostom



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

September 15 2019 // Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time // Lectionary: 132 // Gospel LK 15:1-32

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So to them he addressed this parable. “What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance. “Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.’ In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Then he said, “A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ So, the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against

heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns, who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

Spiritual Reflection: "It was his home now. But it could not be his home till he had gone from it and returned to it. Now he was the Prodigal Son." - — G.K. Chesterton. God has prepared a home for us. It is up to us to make the place God has prepared for us our home. We therefore need to keep inviting people home.

Spiritual Questions

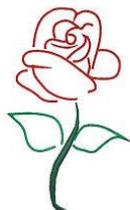
1. When have you been the Prodigal Son?
2. Who has been like the Father in the Gospel to you?
3. Who has been like the older brother (don't name names out loud)?
4. When have you been like the older brother?
5. How can you become more like the Father?



A HEALING PRAYER.

THE PRAYER HEALING THE SPIRIT SPECIAL INTENTIONS.

Gentle Jesus, with faith in Your healing powers and confidence in Your constant compassion, I ask you to heal the great suffering in our world. May my soul find rest in Your comforting love and relief from sorrow and anguish. Relying on Your love, I especially ask Your help in creating a culture



of life I place my trust in Your power to heal my spirit from feelings of hopelessness, unrest, and despair. Amen.



St. Monica Society

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY.

O Jesus, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, well-beloved Son of the Blessed Virgin and foster Child of St. Joseph, we most fervently implore Thee, through Mary Thine ever-blessed Mother and St. Joseph Thy foster father, take our fallen away brothers and sisters under Thy special charge and enclose them in the love of Thy Sacred Heart. They are the children of Thy Father in Heaven, created after His own image; they are Thy possession, for Thou hast purchased them with Thy Precious Blood; they are temples of the Holy Spirit, who sanctified them in Baptism and implanted in their hearts the virtues of faith, hope and charity.

O most loving Jesus, rule and guide them, that they may live according to the holy Catholic Faith, that they may not waver in their confidence in Thee and that they may ever remain faithful to Thy love.

O Mary, Blessed Mother of Jesus, grant to our fallen away brothers and sisters a place in thy pure maternal heart! Spread over them thy protecting mantle when danger threatens their innocence; keep them firm when they are about to stray from the path of virtue; and should they have the misfortune of falling into mortal sin, oh, then raise them up again, reconcile them with thy Divine Son and restore them to Sanctifying Grace.

And thou, O holy foster father St. Joseph, do not abandon our fallen away brothers and sisters! Protect them from the assaults of the wicked enemy and deliver them from all dangers of soul and body.

O dear parents of the holy Child Jesus! Intercede for the parents of fallen away Catholics also, that they may continue to strive to inspire our fallen away brothers and sisters in the love and fear of God and one day attain with them the Beatific Vision.

Amen.



Catholic Prayer

A PRAYER FOR ONE'S CALLING

Jesus, Divine Caller of vocations,
You invite some to chosen professions,
Others to distinctive spiritual work!
Your call may reflect one's ambitions,
Or may be a command to a special calling.
Inspire me to always know within my heart,
What particular type of work is fitting
To do Your will at that particular time.
Your many callings vary immensely.
They are all reflections of Your Holiness.

Thank you for my heavenly calling and
For maintaining the vocation of Your choice!



Humor

Today at the bank,
an old lady
asked me to check
her balance.

So I pushed her over.