

February 17-18, 2007

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Samuel 26:2-23

First Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38

Bye, bye ordinary green....we won't be seeing you on weekends again until June 16th-17th. This Wednesday we are dusted with the ashes of last year's blessed palms as we enter the season of Lent. This weekend's Scripture selections provide us with a challenging way to depart Ordinary Time. 'Love your enemies', flies in the face of wanting to bomb our enemies into oblivion. 'Pray for those who mistreat you' goes up against our 'three strikes laws' and 'Give to everyone who asks of you'....well, might we suggest our ongoing immigration (legal and illegal) discussions don't usually incorporate this perspective. A parishioner recently shared being at a presentation which involved Mrs. Linda Biehl, (who you may recall presented her story at one of our Good Friday Prayer Breakfasts.) Standing by her side and presenting as well was one of the young men who had participated in murdering her daughter....the young man having been forgiven by Mrs. Biehl and now treated as one of her own children. Our parishioner commented on being surprised by her own reactions of wanting to exact revenge on the young man....even if Mrs. Biehl didn't want to....and being ashamed and confused when challenged by extreme forgiveness. As we move into the Lenten Season might these be good weeks in which to look at much we are trying to be converted to the ways of God...as opposed to converting God to our way of thinking? A common tendency is to view the world only from our own experience without tempering it with the reality that not everyone looks at things the same way. Why, by just considering this passage from Luke...how do we compare? How judgmental are we? How condemning are we? How merciful, how forgiving, how generous? What are the parameters/stipulations in which we try to be God's children? Are we forgiving and non-judgmental toward only those we deem worthy of our kindness? Do we pick and choose with whom we will be 'Christ-like?' Have we, Taliban-like, become the imposers of a harsh view of God and creation on everyone and anyone? Have we fallen into the trap of presuming that our USA experience and expression of Catholicism and/or Christianity in general is the way the whole world should go? Uh huh....so let's get back to the Gospel of Luke...which of your enemies are you struggling to love? When did you recently give away money with no thought of getting it back? When have you done that is 'good' to someone who hurt you? (As opposed to hunting them down and afflicting them with locusts and warts!) This could be an interesting Lent....unless of course we simply look the other way and presume that Jesus was just joking.

Thank you for coming and being a part of Corpus Christi Catholic-Christian Community here in Aliso Viejo. Registration Forms are available on the Concierge Shelves, if you are new amongst us, please help us out by completing one and returning it to us. Also...our PSA pledges continue to grow...have you made your pledge? This Wednesday is ASH WEDNESDAY, please take a copy of your Bulletin with you so you can be apprised our ASH schedule....hope to see you that morning. As we put away the things of green (Ordinary Time) and cloak ourselves with purple (Lent), remember, you are loved. FKB