

June 16-17, 2007
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Father's Day Weekend

Second Samuel 12:7-13

Galatians 2:16-21

Luke 7:36-50

On a recent Sunday, a visitor to our parish complained to anyone who would listen about what she deemed to be the inappropriate style of dress worn by so many of our community. Of particular annoyance to her were the 'spaghetti strap tops' worn by some of those collecting the Stewardship/Offertory gifts (shame on you Jim Ellis!) She urged those cornered by her to speak to the parish leadership about this unseemly style of dress and have the leadership do something about it. In the midst of her discomfort and zeroing in on supposed fashion faux pas' one wonders if she had any time to consider the homily or appreciate a vibrant community that CHOSE to be at Mass? Granted, we live in the era of 'American Idol' and "Dances with the Stars' in which people are openly critiqued, rated and judged. Our assorted political candidates are scrutinized and their every behavior/judgment commented upon for its rightness or wrongness (in the commentators eyes.) Yet, in our selection from the Gospel of Luke we have Jesus openly siding with the 'sinful woman' (such a tactful description.) In short, Jesus demonstrates that God looks for the goodness that lies within regardless of how the exterior may look. Spaghetti straps do not offend God. They may offend the self-appointed morality police, but God is more enthralled with people gathering in his home than with how they dress while doing so. Oh sure, thongs and string bikinis would probably not be appropriate...but at what point are we more caught up in being judgmental about others than in joining with the 'Body of Christ'? Beneath our veneers of slick dress and cultured mannerisms, what lies within our hearts? Have we forgotten that we might be capable of fooling others...but God is never fooled? Sometimes those we may consider to be 'scum of the earth' may actually be the closest to God's heart....and those who preen and posture and are quick to judge everyone else, may be rotten to the core.

With the doctrinal days of Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi behind us, we now return to Ordinary Time, a season which will last until Thanksgiving. Thank you for joining with our community as we experience the grace of God within the ordinary events of our summer season. Please accept a Bulletin on your way home...lots going on about which you don't want to ignorant. Have you had your Parish Directory photo taken yet? Appointments are still available...go to www.avcatholics.org and make yours. Galilee by the Sea is getting closer and closer...make sure you mark out July 17-18-19...and of course the RSVP date for our Summer all-parish Retreat – Just Breathe' is July 1st...which is just around the corner. To the dads amongst us, thank you for the gift of life, for contributing to forming and shaping our vision and for being a strength in our lives. Happy Father's Day! With so much happening, don't forget, each and every ordinary day,you are loved. FKB