14th July 2019 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor ....

There was always much discussion when Jewish men, students and other inquiring minds posed questions to Jesus. A lawyer walks up to Jesus and asks Jesus a question: ‘What must I do to inherit eternal life?’ and “who is my neighbor”? The lawyer answers the first question himself by quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy, (Chapter 6), and Leviticus (Chapter 19). However, the next answer was not that easy: Jesus formulates one of the most well known parables intertwining all the cultural, legal, political, ethnic and racial prejudices in the face of human kindness & mercy: the Good Samaritan.

At that time, neighbor was taken to mean many things: like friend, fellow, countryman, kin and so on. Jesus localizes the definition and challenges them to see that one’s neighbor is anyone in need. The need goes beyond geography, or someone next door. It is important to know how Jesus chose someone from Samaria, the estranged cousin of all who surrounded him that day — who rescued a Jew traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. He had fallen among thieves. Neither Jewish priest nor Levite helped him Perhaps they thought the man was dead and did not want to risk defilement by touching a dead body, which sort of vindicated them.

The essence of the story, however, is that one who was hated by the Jewish community exceeded all social boundaries and exhibited unusual generosity in caring for his ethnic enemy. Who is my neighbor? “The one who treated him with mercy”

Jesus said to him: ‘Go and do likewise.”

Today we hear again Christ’s immortal parable about a man lying wounded by the roadside, and how two people passed him by while a third stopped and helped him. This parable does not call for a lot of discussion, rather it calls for action: “Go and do the same yourself”. What is most disturbing in Christ’s story is not so much the attack made on an innocent man (which is of itself cruel), but the fact that two people who might be expected to help him, pass by without even showing compassion for him, not that compassion by itself would have done any good. Why did the priest and the Levite not stop? How could their feelings be so dulled, and their sympathies so atrophied? The defiant cry of Cain rises on all sides: ‘Am I my brother’s keeper’?

Could it be that the first question that came to their (the Levite and the priest) mind was: ‘What will happen to me if I stop?’

Whereas the question that came to the Samaritan’s mind was: What will happen to the wounded man if I do not stop?’

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Children’s Liturgy of the Word will start on Sunday, July 7, during the 9:30 am and 12:30 pm masses. All school age children are invited to participate. Parents are urged to consider supporting this ministry to help our children understand the Sunday Mass Readings better at their own level.

If you would like your child to participate in the Children’s Liturgy on Sundays, please arrive 15 minutes before the Mass starts to sign up your child for the children to stand in line at the front of the church ready to be part of the procession.

To sign up please talk to Sonia Urquilla, the person in charge of the program.

The sign up material will be supplied to you before the Mass.

Volunteer Catechists: Linda Catalano, Maria Hohn, Paquita Johnson, Ludy Marantai, Lety Tomas and Rojillo Rodriguez will serve as liturgical ministers facilitating the children’s participation in the Liturgy.

FORMED - Highlights

Want to learn more about the greatest writers in history without going back to college? What if you could gain a better sense of the Catholic themes from great Catholic authors? FORMED has a new program: Literature: What Every Catholic Should Know. Literary expert Joseph Pearce opens the door to authors like Dante, Jane Austen, Tolkien and Chesterton in a clear and exciting manner—guaranteed to inspire and help you make the connections between great literature and great faith.

The Elements of the Catholic Mass

We sit, we stand, we bow, we process, we kneel, we sing, we make the sign of the Cross, we pray for another, we reach out to the sick and homebound with Holy communion. Have you asked yourself why? Watch some of the videos.

Can we really become saints?

Learn about Blessed Pier Giorgio: a Modern Example of Virtue. Pier was an athlete, outdoor enthusiast, avid skier and possibly a saint. See why the life of Blessed Pier Giorgio has inspired so many to embrace Jesus and pursue holiness. Don’t have a FORMED account yet?

Enter the URL SaintJohnEvangelistFormed.org. and follow the simple instructions on the website and register with your name, your e-mail and create your own password in order to have your own personal access to the website.