23 September 2018 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Today’s Gospel focuses on our human folly and ambitions. It addresses a particular urge in us: the urge to be esteemed as the “greatest” found deep in our fallen nature. The apostles make that same mistake again. For them, perhaps, following Jesus was a job, the position that was important. Going down that familiar lane, in their eyes the greatest among them was obviously the one who had the highest position, the one who was up there, next to the Master. Hence each wants to get that top job, for the lowest reasons. Just as the disciples did not understand the Lord's prediction of his passion, neither do we at times, understand the quality of true greatness. They are victims of jealousy and selfish ambition. They obviously still thought that Christ would set up an earthly kingdom, a kingdom of power and glory.

But Christ put them right on that. His kingdom is not about seeking honor and glory for oneself. It is about serving others. If they are prepared to serve others, then by all means they can have the top places or positions. But they will not be sitting on high chairs and soft seats, with others bowing and honoring them. They are more likely to be down on their knees with a basin of water in one hand and a towel in the other, washing the feet of “the little ones”. If they are ready for that kind of life then they are welcome to the top jobs. The Choice is theirs....

It is not what we do that matters or makes any difference – being a doctor, or a carpenter or a bus driver... It is the kind of doctor, the kind of carpenter, and the kind of bus driver I am that counts. The criteria presented today is: we can judge the kind of people we are by one thing: our readiness to put the needs of others (especially, the poor, the forgotten, the sick, the hungry, the little ones, who have no capacity to return a favor) in selfless service, before our own.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Online Giving is available for you to make contributions to the parish. This option makes use of current technologies and security standards and allows you the option of setting up recurring contributions. It also enables our parish to take advantage of new tools to become more efficient.

Online Giving Benefits: The process is:
- Secure and confidential: No need to share payment information with the parish office.
- Efficient: Set up direct withdrawals from your checking or savings account.
- Simple: Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
- Convenient: No need to write a check or have cash available.

Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for you to use, and we strongly support both Online Giving and offering envelopes for contributions to the parish. "Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in the weekly offertory and in special collections.*

You may start giving online today! So please:
1) Visit our parish website at www.saintjohnnevaclalist.org and click on the online giving link.
2) Create your own account.
3) Schedule your gift, at your convenience.

Please prayerfully consider giving online. If you have any questions, you may contact the parish office. Michael Bennett, Christine Riley, and Juanita Aguilar of our Parish Finance Council among many others utilize the “Online Giving” Program and are available and happy to answer any questions regarding the program or assist you in the initial set-up.

THE QUASQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS ON SALE

The Quasquicentennial commemorative items: T-Shirts (small, medium, large and x-large), Totes, Wine Glasses and Coffee Mugs will be on sale for one last time on the next weekend, Saturday, September 29, after the 4:30pm Liturgy, and on Sunday, September 30, after all the liturgies in front of the Church.

THE QUASQUICENTENNIAL DINNER

Do not forget to RSVP to the Quasquicentennial Dinner at the Patio Español on October 14, 2018.

Please turn in your choice of dinner with your checks by October 1st. The committee will appreciate you turning it in by the deadline. This will give us the time to organize the Quasquicentennial evening. You can mail in your reservation or drop it off at the Parish Office, Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone’s pastoral visit to St. John the Evangelist Parish: October 7, 2018

On his weekend visits to Parishes, he presides at two masses. In our Parish he will offer the 9:30 am and 12:30 pm masses. He will meet with the people of Saint John the Evangelist Parish after the Sunday masses, the Religious Education Staff and the Parish Councils in between masses.

He will visit St. John’s School on Friday, October 5, 2018. He will meet with the students and the faculty of the school.