From the Desk of the Pastor ....

A rich young man of excellent character came running to Christ wanting to live a better life. Why running?

Was it a decision he made at the spur of the moment?

Did he really stop to think where his action might lead? Why did he come?

But when Christ told him that if he wished to become his disciple, he would have to give up his wealth and his attachment to wealth, and the Gospel tells us that he went away sad. This young man perhaps represents all of us. One can presume that he had a good-living, One may even imagine him to be a decent, hardworking and respectable fellow, a young man any parent could be proud of.

A model person? Yes, ... up to a point.

When we examine his claims to greatness and excellence, he has not killed anyone; the vast majority of us can say the same. He is not known to have robbed or cheated anyone. He probably honored his parents. Perhaps he had everything he needed with a chance to inherit their fortune.

But to give up everything that we possess, and be completely detached in order to enter the kingdom of God: was not something he expected from Jesus.

All of us perhaps find this teaching very challenging. There is something preventing us from doing so. That something is probably different for each one of us. One wonders what it is......

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

October Mass Count

Each October the Archdiocese of San Francisco instructs its parishes to count and report the number of people attending Sunday masses to put together the annual National Catholic Directory Mass attendance statistics.

Christmas Bazaar: The Hispanic Community invites you to the Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, October 28 after all the masses. We will have Christmas items, jewelry, ornaments and utensils for the house. We will have a raffle of a nativity set. Free cookies and coffee will be available. We hope to see you there!

Oscar Arnulfo Romero y Galdámez was born on August 15, 1917 into a large family in the small town of Cuidad Barrios in El Salvador. He entered the seminary at the age of fourteen and in 1942 he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Salvador. He recognized the radio's potential to reach people and convinced five radio broadcasters in San Miguel to broadcast their Sunday sermons to peasants whom he believed they were not welcome in the churches. In 1966 he was the secretary of the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador. In 1970 he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop in San Salvador, but he became known as a stubborn and retrograde prelate. A small episode as Bishop of Santiago de Maria opened his eyes while recognizing the misery of the peasants and evident the blood-thirsty repression they suffered at the hands of the security forces. In February of 1977, he was unexpectedly elected to be the new archbishop of San Salvador. From the pulpit of the cathedral, Archbishop Romero became the voice of the poor who had no voice. He continued using the radio to broadcast his Sunday homilies to tell people what was happening throughout the country, to talk about the role of the Church and offer hope to their listeners. Soon the archbishop became the target of the Salvadoran government's anger. On March 24, 1980, he was shot to death by an unknown hit man while celebrating Mass in the chapel of a small hospital. Just a few moments before his death, Romero had spoken these prophetic words: "Those who for love of Christ surrender to the service of the poor, will live like the grain of wheat that dies. The harvest is obtained because the grain dies". In 1987, Pope John Paul II granted Oscar Romero the title of "Servant of God." In February 2015, Pope Francis declared Archbishop Romero a martyr. The Church formally beatified him on May 23, 2015 and will be canonized on October 14, 2018.

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings begin with a period of reflection on the meaning of "riches" for individuals and communities. We read a love song to the spirit of wisdom. The Psalm and the second reading from Hebrews both continue this meditation on wisdom and the Word of God. Mark personalizes these reflections with the story of a good man who wants only to move closer to eternal life but finds his way blocked by his own success. He walks away sad, from Jesus. The choice could not be clearer but even a good man, recognized as such by Jesus, finds it impossible to uproot himself from his possessiveness. The lesson is both about the treasure that is Wisdom, that is eternal life, that is Jesus, and the power of our attachment to things that are not eternal. We must choose again and again which path we will make our own.

WORDS OF WISDOM...The spirit of wisdom, as we discover in today's first reading, comes to those who pray for her. Wisdom, like the word of God, carries a message of consolation as well as of great challenge. We cannot shrink from the wisdom of God, or from the word that has the power to penetrate our hearts and minds. Jesus, the living word of God, the embodiment of wisdom, has strong, deeply penetrating words.