

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 20, 2014

Homily Next Week:
Deacon Steve Wodzanowski

Readings for July 27, 2014
FIRST READING: 1 KINGS 3:5, 7-12
SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:28-30
GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:44-52

Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday - 5 pm
Sunday - 9:30 am & 5:30 pm

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday - Friday, 7 am, Parish Center

Reconciliation
Saturday - 3:30-4:15 pm in the Church
or by appointment

Parish Center Hours
Monday-Thursday - 8 am - 4:30 pm
Friday - 8 am - 3 pm
Saturday - 9 am - 1 pm
www.stjosephparish.org
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St. Joseph School

Main Office x210
Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218

The Particularity of Grace

*Love, love, love, says Percy.
And run as fast as you can
along the shining beach, or the rubble, or the dust.*

*Then go to sleep.
Give up your body heat, your beating heart.
Then, trust.*

-Mary Oliver (Percy is her dog)-

Sitting outside of Tully's on a warm summer morning, bemoaning the truly disordered condition of the world, I felt my heart sink deeper and deeper into despair. In Gaza, another verse of the same old song seems determined to be sung, as hapless, enraged Palestinians, filled with self-destructive anger, launch missiles into Israel that almost never reach a target; while Israeli jets, with strategic precision and American technology, bomb civilian centers, killing hundreds in a quest for a few. On the southern border of the United States, those blessed by peace and power chant to return refugee children to dangerous and impoverished homelands, without so much as a hearing, on the questionable premise that mercy or even justice only encourages such refugees. In Iraq, the bloody aftermath of a misbegotten war continues to polarize and to punish those who have never had a voice, have never arisen one day in a world where they were something other than obstacles in the path of violent men. And in the streets and lonely apartments of our cities, each day, dozens of veterans take their lives in despair of ever truly returning home. The litany of sorrow rolls on: from bishops in Minnesota still hiding records of pedophilia and abuse of power, to members of Congress encouraging lawsuits but never getting around to legislation. In our own community, cancer seems too much with us, while other diseases—from depression to Alzheimer's—seem to mock us from the shadows. Great problems, vast and seemingly insoluble, wash across the table in the sun. What can even the warmest of days do for us, in the face of so much suffering?

But just then, a small dog scurries beneath the table, his pointed ears shifting—one up, one down, both up, both down—as he sniffs purses and book bags, apparently convinced we are holding out on him. Looking up, his brown eyes are full of expectation and joy, his tongue, slightly out, panting. He knows nothing but this moment. For him, there is no global powers nor spheres of influence, no epidemic of cancer nor sexual abuse crisis: there is only this day and these smells, only the hands that pet or are licked for salt or some crumb left from the morning coffee-cake. He is pure and present, fulfilling the end for which he was created. He praises God by his joy at being the dog he is.

In our media-saturated age, we can drown in the statistics of horror: the hundreds dead in Palestine, the thousands trapped on the border. Feeling small against the flood of data, we cling to our judgments or are swept away in our sense of powerlessness and despair. Those involved in these stories are distant, almost imaginary figures, like pedestrians viewed from the top of the Empire State building; and we speak of them and their situations in generalities or apply to them some universal principles—abstract ideas created to contain this group, that region, “those” people. Yes, though we can feel rage or sympathy, spurred on by pundits and television’s talking heads, in truth, the sheer magnitude makes difficult any real connection with the people of these groups. All we hear are harrowing statistics, awful reports, stunning stories; yet, none of the people spoken of in these stories is as real to me as this dog, licking my hand, nuzzling my shoe.

The wonder of the Incarnation of God in Jesus is not that God became “Man” but that God became *this* man. God enters our world as a particular person, complex and beautiful, able to laugh and able to suffer. He was not a statistic nor a people, but a person as real and particular as any one of us. And it was in all the complexity of his own unique life that the mystery of salvation came to be—a truth as profound for each of us as it is for Christ. For while it may be important at times to think abstractly, to note the movement of refugees and the course of nations, we live in the beautiful and, sometimes, heartbreaking reality of a particular world.

When we think only of generalities, of *refugees* or *Palestinians* or *Israelis* or *Tea-Partiers*, we risk losing what is most glorious about the world in which God has placed us. It is a particular world and we are particular to it. immeasurably precious in our own identity, our own personhood, our own weird and wondrous life.

Likewise, each of those who dies in Palestine has a particular name and story: he was born in a particular bed, to parents who loved him and got angry with him when he yelled in the house; he had a face he made that would make his little sister laugh, and his hand was warm when you touched it—though sticky when he ate pomegranates. And, each of the children picked up from Honduras is one person: she has her own smile, the teeth a little crooked and gapped because she has never seen a dentist; she has a little scar above her lip from the time she fell as a toddler, and she still weeps when she thinks about the grandmother who used to hold her hand. These particular persons, like us, are composed of webs of relationships, of that unique, enfleshed series of joys and of troubles that is human life.

Thinking of such particular persons can—some say—distort our objectivity; yet, it is the kind of distortion God has when looking at each puppy and paramecium, each tree and each of us. It is a distortion that allows you and I to be loved uniquely, even as all of us are loved completely. Perhaps such a distorted vision, built less on principles than on the grace of living in this moment and receiving each person in her or his own identity, does not create a clear and distinct ideology; yet, it may just make us—each of us—slightly more like God.



Annual Catholic Appeal

If you haven’t done so already, please prayerfully consider a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal.

Every dollar that comes in over and above the \$153,391 goal set for us by the Archbishop will come back to the parish in the form of a rebate. And we need the rebate! This year, the rebate will help support the purchase of emergency kits for the church, and prepare us to be a resource and shelter in case of any regional disaster.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2014- RESULTS THROUGH JULY 17

Archdiocesan Goal \$153,391

Total raised so far \$131,953

Percent of goal reached 86%

Thank you to all who have made a pledge. As you can see, we have a long way to go! If you didn’t bring your envelope from home, envelopes are available in the pews in front of you. Please fill one out and drop it in the offering basket TODAY. Or visit www.stjosephparish.org for online giving options. .

Thank you again for your support of many crucial ministries within the Archdiocese! Your gift will make a real difference in a lot of lives.





Prayer

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions:

For a humanitarian solution to the crisis of the illegal immigrant children . . . For the passengers and crew who were on the Malaysian flight that crashed in the Ukraine and for their families . . . For the survivors of the recent Lake Washington boat collision and for the woman who died . . . For Jon's health and for Eleanor in her recovery from knee surgery . . . For Chris and Grace on their journey . . . For Donna's start up business . . . For those who are mountain climbing . . . For Joy to be settled in her new surroundings . . . Thankful for the support the Vincentians provide for those in need.

Prayer Tree



*"For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me . . .
truly, I say to you,
as you did it to one of the least of them my brothers,
you did it to me."*

~ Matthew 25:35-40

If you have petitions you would like included in the prayer tree, including birth announcements, illnesses and deaths, please call the parish office at 206-324-2522 ext 100 or email rleet@stjosephparish.org

Sacred Silence

A time for silent prayer and peace

The Sacred Silence prayer group gathers on Monday nights at 7 pm in the Church for an hour of silent prayer. Newcomers always welcome. Open to all types of prayer practice. People are encouraged to use whatever silent prayer practice works best for them whether it is centering prayer, Ignatian imagination or another prayer. Time is spent both sitting and walking in silence.

For information on Sacred Silence and silent prayer contact Jim Hoover at jhoover3law@questoffice.net or 206-286-0313.



Come & See What The Catholic Faith Has To Offer

Tuesday July 29th
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
St. Joseph's Parish Center

- Are you, your spouse, a friend, or an acquaintance a member of another faith tradition but worship regularly here at St. Joseph's?
- Are you experiencing God's call in your life and seeking Baptism or full communion with the Catholic Church?
- If you are, please consider participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. The RCIA is an opportunity to explore with others what the Catholic Church has to offer. It is an opportunity, through a process of discernment and gradual conversion to become a full member of the Catholic Church.

If you are interested contact Deacon Steve Wodzanowski at 965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

All are welcome in this journey of faith.

Prayer Opportunity

From now through the summer, the south doors of the church will remain open until 7:30 pm each day for personal prayer. Come in and sit and pray for a while!



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, August 14th

Mass 6:00 pm



Pope - ourri

Selections from Pope Francis General Audience St. Peter's Square - Wednesday, 25 June 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning.

Today we would like to pause on the importance for a Christian to belong to this people. We will speak about belonging to the Church.

1. We are not isolated and we are not Christians on an individual basis, each one on his or her own, no, our Christian identity is to belong! We are Christians because we belong to the Church. It is like a last name: if the first name is "I am Christian", the last name is "I belong to the Church". It is so beautiful to observe how this belonging is also expressed in the name God gives to himself. In answer to Moses in that wonderful episode of the "burning bush", he defines himself as the God of the fathers (cf. Ex 3:15). He doesn't say: I am the Omnipotent One..., no: I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. In this way He reveals himself as the God who made an alliance with our fathers and remains ever faithful to his pact, and calls us to enter into this relationship which precedes us. God's relationship with his people precedes us all, it comes from that time.

2. In this sense, one's thought goes in the first place, with gratitude, to those who went before us and who welcomed us into the Church. No one becomes Christian on his or her own! Is that clear? No one becomes Christian by him- or herself. Christians are not made in a laboratory. A Christian is part of a people who comes from afar. The Christian belongs to a people called the Church and this Church is what makes him or her Christian, on the day of Baptism, and then in the course of catechesis, and so on. But no one, no one becomes Christian on his or her own. If we believe, if we know how to pray, if we acknowledge the Lord and can listen to his Word, if we feel him close to us and recognize him in our brothers and sisters, it is because others, before us, lived the faith and then transmitted it to us. We have received the faith from our fathers, from our ancestors, and they have instructed us in it. If we think about it carefully, who knows how many beloved faces pass before our eyes at this moment: it could be the face of our parents who requested our Baptism; that of our grandparents or of some family member who taught us how to make the sign of the Cross and to recite our first prayers. I always remember the face of the nun who taught me the Catechism, but she always comes to mind — she is

in Heaven for sure, because she was a holy woman — I always remember her and give thanks to God for this sister. Or it could be the face of the parish priest, of another priest or a sister or a catechist, who

transmitted the contents of the faith to us and helped us to grow as Christians.... So, this is the Church: one great family, where we are welcomed and learn to live as believers and disciples of the Lord Jesus.

3. We are able to live this journey not only because of others, but together with others. In the Church there is no "do it yourself", there are no "free agents". How many times did Pope Benedict "describe the Church as an ecclesial 'we'"! At times one hears someone say: "I believe in God, I believe in Jesus, but I don't care about the Church...". How many times have we heard this? And this is not good. There are those who believe they can maintain a personal, direct and immediate relationship with Jesus Christ outside the communion and the mediation of the Church. These are dangerous and harmful temptations. These are, as the great Paul VI said, absurd dichotomies. It is true that walking together is challenging, and at times can be tiring: it can happen that some brother or some sister creates difficulties, or shocks us.... But the Lord entrusted his message of salvation to a few human beings, to us all, to a few witnesses; and it is in our brothers and in our sisters, with their gifts and limitations, that he comes to meet us and make himself known. And this is what it means to belong to the Church. Remember this well: to be Christian means belonging to the Church. The first name is "Christian", the last name is "belonging to the Church".

Dear friends, let us ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, for the grace never to fall into the temptation of thinking we can make it without the others, that we can get along without the Church, that we can save ourselves on our own, of being Christians from the laboratory. On the contrary, you cannot love God without loving your brothers, you cannot love God outside of the Church; you cannot be in communion with God without being so in the Church, and we cannot be good Christians if we are not together with those who seek to follow the Lord Jesus, as one single people, one single body, and this is the Church. Thank you.





Social Ministry

GOOD NEWS PEOPLE

Faith, Hope, and Love in Action

The Good News People program is an engaging parish-wide, small group, community-building process. On this journey you are invited to pray, reflect, learn, discuss and grow into a deeper understanding of what it means to live as a disciple in today's world.

Each session includes prayer, reflection on sacred scripture, inspiring stories of "Good News" people, focus on a virtue of the week and woven through it all, opportunities for sharing in dialogue.

Goals of the Program:

1. To engage participants in their Catholic FAITH as they share in prayer, reading of Sacred Scripture, spiritual practices and dialogue;
2. To communicate HOPE as participants explore the possibilities that a faithful commitment to the gospel call to be "good news to the poor" can bring;
3. To open hearts to a greater LOVE by encountering the biblical witness of Jesus in the Gospels and that of everyday people who have chosen the path of love as they respond to Luke 4:18-19.

Meet other parishioners and experience a greater sense of purpose and belonging. Groups can be formed in a variety of ways. Gather your friends, form a group and sign up today!

Become a Good News Parish!

- Explore and present the heart of the Catholic Church's teaching, experience and witness in response to the gospel call to love God and love our neighbor.
- Tap into and unleash the hope, power and possibilities found in a faithful commitment to be "good news to the poor" (Luke 4:18).
- Empower the parish to be a sign of God's hope-filled presence and activity in the world.

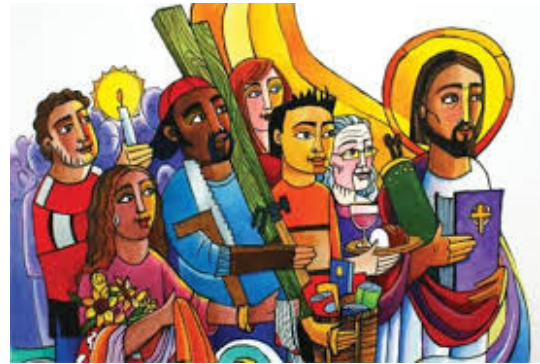
The Good News People Program includes:

- Fourteen 2-hour small group sessions (7 sessions beginning in the fall and 7 sessions continuing in the winter);

- Parish-wide program Kick-off and Closing Celebration;
- Immersion Experience and follow-up;
- A companion DVD filmed by an award-winning film maker;
- A session-by-session Reader and Journal with reading material, reflections, and space for journaling.

DEEPER FAITH + LOVE IN ACTION = GOODNEWSPEOPLE

Right now we are recruiting Facilitators and Hosts. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Steve Wodzanski at 206-965-1646 or steve@stjosephparish.org or Vince Herberholt at vherberholt3@comcast.net



Liturgy of the Hours Retreat

September 12-14, 2014

Led by: Br. Aelred Woodard, O.S.B. and Andrew Casad

Location: The Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades

Register: (206) 748-7991, palisades@seattlearch.org,
www.seattlearchdiocese.org/palisades

The Liturgy of the Hours has remained a mystery for many faithful Catholics, yet it is a powerful tool to grow in communion with God through the Scriptures. Curious to know how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours? Interested in learning its history? Learn about theology of the Liturgy of the Hours, music and the Liturgy of the Hours, the spirituality of the Psalms, and how this regular prayer of the Church leads us to Christ in his mysteries.

St. Joseph's Young Adult Hike

INCLUDING MASS WITH FR. GLEN!

SUNDAY JULY 27th

2:00pm - 8:00pm

(Ages 21-35)

The Hike: Coal Creek Trail Located at Coal Creek (#COUGAR-N1) in our own Issaquah Alps. Round-trip the hike is 6.0 miles with an elevation gain of 550 ft and the highest point at 600 ft. This is a low impact, fun, dirt/gravel trail. Carpool from St. Joseph's Parking lot. The hike will include Sunday mass lead by Father Glen! It is about a thirty minute drive and the trail is a mile off I-405. The Coal Creek Trail has a pull-in gravel parking lot. There is no fee or cost to hike, a recommended donation of \$5 per car. Please bring a water bottle. Depending on the weather bring sunscreen or rain gear, we will do the hike rain or shine. After finishing the hike and returning to the city, anyone in the mood can gather for dinner at Olympia Pizza. For details or to sign-up email youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org For more information about Coal Creek Trail visit: <http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/coal-creek>

