

Link to Liturgy



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Perseverance in faith will save your life

Lessons and Discussions

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“...the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

Page 7 – Work

“night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you”

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“By your perseverance you will secure your lives”

Link to Liturgy provides faithful resources which use the latest audiovisual means alongside traditional means to evangelize & catechize thus linking life to the Gospel & the Gospel to life. Sign up Free to Link to Liturgy.



Entrance Antiphon – Jer 29:11, 12, 14

Should be chanted so that the time of prayer, study and discussion can be made sacred. Another song can be substituted, but should have the same theme; this should not be the norm.

Dicit Dominus: Ego

Jer 29: 11, 12, 14

VI

T HE Lord says: “I am pondering thoughts of peace
and not of af-fliction; * you shall call upon me, and I
will hear you; and I will bring you back from all the
lands where you are held captive.”

Alternate options:

At the Name of Jesus
I Will Call Upon the Lord
Cool or Holy (Remnant)
Kalwaria (Remnant)

Collect – Roman Missal

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Gospel Reading – Luke 21:5-19 – Roman Missal

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
- Glory to you O Lord

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here--the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

"Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

The Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Spiritual Reading

From St. Paul to the Thessalonians:

Brothers and sisters: You know how one must imitate us. For we did not act in a disorderly way among you, nor did we eat food received free from anyone. On the contrary, in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you. Not that we do not have the right. Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us. In fact, when we were with you, we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat. We hear that some are conducting themselves among you in a disorderly way, by not keeping busy but minding the business of others. Such people we instruct and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly and to eat their own food.

Responsory

The Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels.

- Then he will reward each according to his deeds.

He will judge the world with justice and the peoples with truth.

- Then he will reward each according to his deeds.

End of Times – Lesson and Discussion

“...the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

The final Sunday in Ordinary Time is the Feast of Christ the King, which will take place next Sunday. The Saturday after Christ the King Sunday is the final day of Ordinary time as well as the final day of the Liturgical Year. As this liturgical year closes and we start a new year in the Church, we are reminded in today’s gospel that all things will end. This writing is known as “apocalyptic literature”. Many non-Catholics, and some Catholics, will try and interpret these verses to show that the end of times is near. However, we honestly don’t know when that time will come.

When will there be an end of times? How will we know? We don’t know. Scripture tells us only the Father knows.[1] The Church teaches there will be great signs and tests, but nothing

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O almighty and everlasting God, who, by the cooperation of the Holy Ghost, didst prepare the body and soul of Mary, glorious Virgin and Mother, to become the worthy habitation of Thy Son: grant that we may be delivered from present evils, and from everlasting death, by her gracious intercession, in whose commemoration we rejoice. Through the same Christ our Lord, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

End Notes

[1] Matthew 24:36

[2] CCC 675

[3] St. Jerome Biblical Commentary pg. 154

[4] Jude 1:5; 2 John 1:7

[5] John 14:6

[6] Gen. 3

[7] Leo XIII, encyclical *Providentissimus Deus*

[8] In Conversation with God pgs. 483-488

[9] Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et spes*, 43

[10] Encyclicals of John Paul II pg. 172

[11] John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, 39

[12] John 4:36

[13] *Laborem Exercens*

[14] John 4:34

[15] 1 Corinthians 3:9

[16] 1 Corinthians 11:1-2

[17] Sirach 33:27

[18] Excerpt from *Laborem Exercens* – Pope John Paul II (Work and Personal Dignity)

[19] Blessed Pedro Castroverde

[20] John 8:44

[21] *The Sacramentary* pg. 524

[22] Luke 21:19

[23] Philippians 4:13

IV. ANTIPHON SALVE REGINA, SIMPLE TONE

From First Vespers of the Feast of the Blessed Trinity to None on Saturday
before the First Sunday of Advent.

Ant.
5.

S
Alve, Re-gí-na, * ma-ter mi-se-ri-córdi-æ : Vi- ta, dulcé-do, et spes nostra,
salve. Ad te clamámus, éxsu-les, fi-li-i Hevæ Ad te suspi-rámus,
gemén-tes et flentes in hac lacrimá-rum valle. E-ia ergo, Advocá-ta
nostra, il-los tu-os mi-se-ri-córdes ócu-los ad nos convér-te. Et Je-sum,
bene-díctum fructum ventris tu-i, nobis post hoc exsí-li-um osténde.
O clemens : O pi-a : O dulcis * Virgo Ma-rí-a.

V. Ora pro nobis, sancta Dei Genitrix.

R. Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi

Let us pray. O almighty and everlasting God, who, by the cooperation of the Holy Ghost, didst prepare the body and soul of Mary, glorious Virgin and Mother, to become the worthy habitation of Thy Son: grant that we may be delivered from present evils, and from everlasting death, by her gracious intercession, in whose commemoration we rejoice. Through the same Christ our Lord, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

English Translation

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of they womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

particular that can signal the end of times. The Catechism says that before Christ comes again, there will be a “final trial that will shake the faith of many believers.”[2] This trial will lead people from the faith and will be in the form of the Anti-Christ or “False Prophets” as Jesus warns about in today’s gospel. Again, we don’t know the exact time this will occur, so this means we must always be on guard for the faith.

How did Luke want us to interpret this passage? We are to take this week’s gospel reading and realize that everything has an end. Our lives, our countries, even our world will end one day, but we don’t know when that time will come. Luke was speaking micro and macroscopically, meaning he was speaking of the destruction of the temple itself and the persecution of the first Christians, but also of the ultimate end of this world. Since we don’t know when this time will come, we must do our part and persevere in our day-to-day trials.[3]

Who has come to you as a “false prophet”? How can we know what they say isn’t the truth? Jesus warns of others who may come to try and deceive us. John and Jude also wrote of people coming in the name of Christians, but they are not.[4] We are called to not follow these false prophets, and reject their erroneous teachings and beliefs.

Christ said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”[5] In the history of time since Jesus, there have been numerous cases of people claiming to be Jesus or saying they know when the end of the world would occur. These people claim to know a way, have a truth, and even offer life, but they neither know nor follow Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. These people can be easily spotted and should not be taken seriously. However, there are people within our own circle of friends or families that will speak falsehood out of ignorance or because they have been misguided. We are called to seek the truth, learn the truth from the Church, and be able to explain and guide others to the fullness of truth. Satan would love for us to believe we are like God and therefore we do not need to learn or know the truth. He deceived our first parents[6] Adam and Eve, and he would like to sow the seeds of deception in our life.

Can we be our own “false prophets”? When we are the ultimate authority on truth, if we are not in line with the way the truth and the life then we are a false prophet to self and others. When asked one day what he thought about a matter, Saint Au-

gustine replied, "I think as the Church thinks". When we are the ultimate authority we think alone and not with the Church. In a time of false prophets and lies, the Church remains the only true prophet.

What does it mean to be a prophet? Prophet is a mouthpiece of God; the Church is the voice of truth in society. **What are examples of this?** The five "non-negotiables" come to mind: abortion, euthanasia, fetal stem cell research, human cloning, and the dignity of marriage. Also we are faced with relativism. Relativism is the basic belief that truth is subjective based on each person, rather than objective and absolute. **What is the problem with relativism?** There can only be one truth. $2 + 2$ can only equal 4 and will always equal 4. There cannot be such thing as a round square, both the word round and square have a set definition. A thing cannot be both "A" and "B" at the same time. When it comes to our faith, the One Holy Catholic Apostolic Church has the fullness of truth and there is not a second or third truth but rather a greater or lesser share in the one truth "Truth cannot contradict truth." [7] With that being said, we must always be attentive and obedient to that truth.

[See Link to Liturgy [Video Lesson - Truth and Lies \(Relativism\)](#)]

The gospel spoke of nation rising against nation, natural disasters, and terrible things that are happening just like today. Does that mean the end of times is at hand? As it was stated, we don't know exactly when the second coming will occur. Looking back at history, we've seen two World Wars, a Cold War, extermination of the Jews, slavery of African-Americans, countless hurricanes and tsunamis that have wiped out hundreds of islands, and so on. We have seen the rise of the culture of death, the redefining of marriage, and the slaughter of millions of innocent children through the sin of abortion. The key point in the passage is all these terrible things have and will happen, but "do not be terrified". Christ is always telling us to have peace in Him and to trust God always, even when terrible things happen all around you.

MUSIC – "Live Like You Were Dying" by Tim McGraw – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 4:22

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiOcw_YR1G8

The video speaks of a man who thought he had many more years to live, but finds out he doesn't have that much time left.

Profession of Faith or Popular Devotion – Prayer before and after work

Without Jesus we can do nothing. That means taking out the trash, making the bed, finishing our math problems, taking orders in a drive thru, changing a diaper, piloting a plane. We can do nothing, large or small without Jesus. We can remember Saint Martin de Porres, who is nicknamed "brother broom" because he even swept the dirty floors for the honor and glory of God. We can remember Saint Therese the Little Flower and Blessed Mother Teresa, who taught and lived out that we should do all things, even small things with great love. The prayer below said before any work can help us keep this in mind.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYER BEFORE WORK

O Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son of your eternal Father: You have said with your holy lips: "Without Me, you can do nothing." My Lord, I embrace your words with my heart and soul, and bow before your goodness and say: Help me, your unworthy servant, to complete this, my present undertaking, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER WORK

O Most sweet Jesus, You are the fulfillment of all blessings. Fill my soul with joy and gladness and save me. Grant that your Name be glorified: for not to us, but to your Name are forever due honor, glory, and adoration. Amen

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Marian Antiphon – Divine Office (Sunday Compline)

one of the most famous in our day and is a Servant of God on the way to sainthood.

MUSIC – “Hello Hurricane” by Switchfoot – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 4:05

<http://youtu.be/eTE5yZWaOBo>

There are times in our lives that we face trials and sufferings the size of hurricanes. We all have to go through them. This song dives into the suffering, and what it means when you combat the pain with love.

Story of Blessed Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio 1913-1928

The perfect story to summarize the Gospel reading is the life and death of Bl. Jose Luis. In 1928, the Mexico government fought to destroy the Catholic Church. Bl. Jose, seeing this take place, joined the fight against the government. During a battle, he gave up his horse for his general, was captured, and thrown into jail, which was a Church building at the time. Once captured, his enemies tried to bribe him by promising release, a high rank in their army, or money if he denied his faith. Blessed Jose Luis refused. The mayor of the town he was imprisoned in was actually Bl. Jose Luis' godfather. His godfather had the power to release him, but was too tied in with his government. Blessed Jose was sent to the restroom, when he saw two roosters fighting. He killed them because they were in a church at the altar. Jose said, "This is a place of worship, a house of God." Those roosters were his godfather's, and in fury, he sentenced him to death. In the middle of the night, the soldiers went and tortured Bl. Jose Luis by cutting off the soles of his feet and forcing him to walk to his grave. The guards shouted at him, "if you shout 'Death to Christ the King' we will spare your life." Jose only shouted, "Long live Christ the King! Long live Our Lady of Guadalupe!" This angered the guards and one soldier broke Jose Luis' jaw with the butt of his gun. Once at the cemetery, they forced him to dig a few times. When he again refused to give up his faith, they killed him by shooting him in the back of the head.

Blessed Jose Luis shows us that even when your nation rises against your faith, when even your own family keeps you incarcerated, and you are sentenced to death, if you stay strong in your faith and persevere, you will secure your life in heaven for forever.

What if the end times were at hand? What if we knew when the end of our end was? How would we act, what would we do, what would we learn?

[See also [Link to Liturgy Lesson - End of the World: The Signs](#)]

Work - Lesson and Discussion[8]

"night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you"

Today's gospel might make people feel like the world will come to an end tomorrow! Many of the early Christians thought so. St. Paul preached about it over and over, as did St. Peter. Many of the Christians got so worked up by the possible second coming that they disregarded any kind of work, both big and small.

This has continued even today. Many people feel that Jesus could come at any minute. While it is true that He could come at any point in time, that doesn't mean we should stop doing what we are called to do. The Second Vatican Council plainly states this thought: "For they are forgetting that by the faith itself they are more obliged than ever to measure up to these duties, each according to his proper vocation." [9]

Where is our home? Heaven! So then, why should we worry about keeping our feet on the ground? We must work here on Earth to give glory to God and to provide for our friends, families, and those that God has put in our path. We are asked by God to work hard for His glory. If we cannot work hard in small temporal (earthly) matters how will we be able to work hard in large spiritual (heavenly) matters?

What are some things we can do to keep our eyes towards Heaven while keeping your feet on Earth?

Why do we have to work? Pope Saint John Paul II says in his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, that by working, we are living out God's will to "have dominion over the world" [10] In an age of computers and machines doing the "work", it is us humans that have to work to make these programs and machines. In other words, we still have to work to make things work for us. Our life is a work to accomplish – the work of God. In his encyclical *Centesimus Annus*, Pope John Paul II that we can begin to see our lives as "a series of sensations to be experienced rather than as a work to be accomplished." [11]

How is work good for us? How is it good for us spiritually?

St. Jose Maria Escriva said that work is not a consequence of sin, but a law from God that binds us all together. “It is meant to fill our days and make us share in God’s creative power.” It allows us to earn a living and “at the same time, to reap ‘the fruits of eternal life.’”[12] “The Church is convinced that work is a fundamental dimension of man’s existence on earth.”[13] There is a dignity in work. The Word became flesh, God became man, and as a man Jesus worked. He was a carpenter and was faithful to His temporal duties. The work of Jesus goes far beyond the temporal. Jesus says, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.”[14] As followers of Christ, the Christian should long to not only do well in temporal work, but to unite with the work of Christ, which is the will of the Father. Saint Paul tells us that we are God’s co-workers. “The one plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. For we are God’s co-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”[15]

Why does God need co-workers? God does not need co-workers. God does not need anything. If a mother is baking a cake, she does not need help baking a cake, but she might ask or allow her daughter to help her. **Why does she ask her daughter to help, when she does not need the help?** The mother desires to share her good work with her daughter. In this sharing the daughter grows in relationship with her mother. The two become one in the work, in the experience. Her daughter also shares in the fruit of the work; she sees the joy as people enjoy the cake. The daughter also learns how to do the work of her mother, and thus once learning she can pass this work on to others. Saint Paul did the work of God, he was a co-worker, and thus he could share this work with others. This is why Saint Paul said, “be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you.”[16]

What virtues do we gain from work? Work is an ordinary means for the development of virtues. The human virtues of manliness (and womanhood), constancy, tenacity, the spirit of solidarity, order, and optimism in the face of adversity are just a few of the virtues we gain from our work.

If we do not work, how is this harmful to us? To not work can lead us to grave sins. The deadly sin of sloth or laziness can

“coolest”, but we cannot abandon what is true. Christ warned his followers ahead of time in this Gospel reading about being put to judgment. Family members may even reject our faith and us, people may hate us because we are a Christian, and we might even be put to death because of Christ. Jesus does not say these words to scare us, but to prepare us for what is to come. When a person joins the military, recruiters, family members, and others will try and tell them what to expect in boot camp, war, etc. The recruiter’s words may seem scary, but ultimately the words help us to persevere, and get through any obstacle. If we as Christians can persevere in our faith, “we will secure our lives.”[22]

How do I persevere in the trials of this life? Christ plainly tells us that He will be with us until the end of time. We can have assurance that Christ will not abandon us. We must depend not on ourselves but on God only, “I can do all things in Him who strengthened me.”[23] Take confidence in the fact that no matter what anyone does to us in this world, we are promised eternal safety. Christ promised that though others may kill the body, they cannot destroy the soul. St. Agnes is a great example of trust in God. She lived in the 4th century AD. When she refused to marry a pagan, she was sentenced to be burned at the stake. However, the flames never touched her, and she had to be beheaded instead.

Over 200,000 people will leave this world between now and midnight. We will all die at some point, but **are we being perseverant in our lives? Are we securely locking our life to Christ? Do we hold so tightly onto our physical life that we forget the reality of our soul, the spiritual life, the interior life?**

VIDEO – “Fr. Cizek” – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – (3:50 - 7:30 or 9:44 If time permits)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2KqRzYsOc8>

This story of Fr. Cizek is a perfect example of how persecution under trials gives testimony to the Life of Christ. The Gospel says that “It will lead to you giving testimony” **How has and how does persecution and trials lead us to give testimony?** There are many examples of how persecution leads to testimony. Tertullian said that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. There is a woman named Immaculee who was persecuted in Rwanda and so many others that even today are guest speakers and travel the nation giving their testimony. Fr. Cizek is

worked. Like St. Joseph, He was a carpenter by trade. Remember to ask for St. Joseph's intercession, since he is the patron of workers.

What are our attitudes during work, schoolwork, chores or a job? Sometimes we work just to get the job done, or just to get money, **is this the attitude, motivation or way God wants us to work?** The seventh commandment says that we should not steal. If we do not work with diligence and obedience (the way God wants us to work) we are "stealing" both our employer's time and money. It can sometimes be difficult to work with joy and to see a value, especially a spiritual value in work. We can pray, *"Lord, may I think what you want me to think. May I desire what you want me to desire. May I speak as you want me to speak. May I work as you want me to work."*[19]

[See also Link to Liturgy Lesson - Pessimism of Working]

[See also Link to Liturgy Lesson - Called to Work in the Vineyard]

Life Lock – Lesson and Discussion

"By your perseverance you will secure your lives"

There is a product called "life lock". It's supposed to protect your identity no matter what happens. Even if someone does steal your identity, you are protected and have a sense of security. It is to give peace of mind. Our soul is constantly under the threat of being stolen from us.

Do we feel secure with our soul? We must remain steadfast in our faith, even when things around us try to disrupt and "steal" it. **If you die today, how secure do you feel about your soul? Why?**

Who tries to steal our soul? Who tries to steal our peace?

Satan, of course, is the primary person who tries to steal us away from God. He tries to scare us into thinking all hope is lost. These are all lies since it comes from "the father of lies"[20]. When someone comes to us, or we feel hopeless, we can remember the part of Mass when the priest at the end of the Our Father prays, "protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our lord Jesus Christ."[21]

What sort of things might shake us to our very foundation?

When living our faith, we may not be the most popular or

bring about bad consequences. As it says in the book of Sirach, "idleness teaches much evil"[17] When we don't work, we can become idle which can lead to many temptations and sins. We should not fall into procrastination and put off the work that must be done today. When we put off what must be done, we can become more complacent, lazy, scared, or nervous about the work that we are not doing. This can leave the burden on others or later give us more work than before.

When we have a due date for a big project, we should start working right away to make sure it is finished on time. Christ reminds us in today's Gospel that there is a "due date" for this world. **Are we working everyday to meet His deadline? Are we working out our salvation everyday?**

VIDEO – Brian Regan Science Project – POP CULTURE CONNECTION – 2:04

<http://youtu.be/3ni3a8oQkTE>

Brain Regan is a stand up comedian. He jokes about not doing a science project that was due. When he throws something together it's just a cup of dirt. **Do we just throw our spiritual lives together and hope God overlooks us?**

How can someone connect his or her work/chores/duties with God? We should always be mindful that our time here on earth is not separated from God. Our work should always bring us closer to Him. We always have two bosses: the one in this world and God. When we connect our work with prayer, by praying before work everyday, by giving thanksgiving when we are finished with the day or a large project, and when we pray for perseverance in our struggles, we are connecting our work with God. St. Augustine said, "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." Never let any job be beneath you. We should always work hard, whether as a janitor or a CEO, because each job is vitally important to the whole.

How can I share my faith at my work? There are always opportunities to spread the Gospel and evangelize in the workplace. One can engage in friendly conversations, give a polite smile or greeting, lend a kind ear to listen, help others with their work, or pick up an extra shift. Another example is when someone who has to work weekends makes sure to take time out of their schedule to attend Sunday Mass. Working is important but

should not come between us and the Sacraments; especially receiving holy communion at Mass.

STORY – Eight hours labor, Eight hours recreation, Eight hours rest

Each September, we celebrate Labor Day. Many people throughout history have fought for the dignity of labor and fought against labor abuse. Robert Owen from Wales had raised the demand for an eight-hour day as early as 1810. In 1817 he had formulated the goal of the eight-hour day and coined the slogan: Eight hours of labor, Eight hours of recreation, Eight hours of rest.

This idea by Robert Owen however was not a new idea. The Catholic King of England Alfred the Great who lived from 849-899 practiced three 8-hour segments of the day. He was a man of discipline who broke up his 24-hour day into three 8 hour periods, 8 hours for sleep and eat, 8 hours for reading, writing and prayer, 8 hours for business. Alfred is often called the Charlemagne of England, but perhaps Charlemagne should be called the Alfred of France. Both leaders have similarities and differences but Alfred surpasses Charlemagne in education (he could read and write) and in holiness.

STORY – San Isidro de Labrador (Saint Isidore the Laborer)

Saint Isidore gives us the greatest example of labor. He practiced a life of work and prayer. Icons of Saint Isidore picture him with two angels helping him push a plow. Many times the icons picture Saint Isidore standing and the angels pushing the plow without him. Saint Isidore would attend Mass daily without fail. Because he was faithful to Mass and prayer, this devotion caused him to be late to work. Through the grace of God, he was always about to complete all his work, even if it meant that angels did his work or assisted in his work. **What does the following prayer of the farmer say about the dignity of work?**

My farm is not where I must soil,
My hands in endless, dreary toil
But where, through seed and swelling pod,
I've learned to walk, and talk, with God.

“God's fundamental and original intention with regard to man, whom he created in his image and after his likeness, was not withdrawn or cancelled out even when man, having broken the

original covenant with God, heard the words: ‘In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread’. These words refer to the sometimes heavy toil that from then onwards has accompanied human work; but they do not alter the fact that work is the means whereby man achieves that ‘dominion’ which is proper to him over the visible world, by ‘subjecting’ the earth. Toil is something that is universally known, for it is universally experienced. It is familiar to those doing physical work under sometimes exceptionally laborious conditions. It is familiar not only to agricultural workers, who spend long days working the land, which sometimes ‘bears thorns and thistles’, but also to those who work in mines and quarries, to steel-workers at their blast-furnaces, to those who work in builders' yards and in construction work, often in danger of injury or death. It is likewise familiar to those at an intellectual workbench; to scientists; to those who bear the burden of grave responsibility for decisions that will have a vast impact on society. It is familiar to doctors and nurses, who spend days and nights at their patients' bedside. It is familiar to women, who, sometimes without proper recognition on the part of society and even of their own families, bear the daily burden and responsibility for their homes and the upbringing of their children. It is familiar to all workers and, since work is a universal calling, it is familiar to everyone.

And yet, in spite of all this toil-perhaps, in a sense, because of it-work is a good thing for man. Even though it bears the mark of a bonum arduum, in the terminology of Saint Thomas, this does not take away the fact that, as such, it is a good thing for man. It is not only good in the sense that it is useful or something to enjoy; it is also good as being something worthy, that is to say, something that corresponds to man's dignity that expresses this dignity and increases it. If one wishes to define more clearly the ethical meaning of work, it is this truth that one must particularly keep in mind. Work is a good thing for man-a good thing for his humanity-because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfillment as a human being and indeed, in a sense, becomes ‘more a human being’.[18]

There are many who do not feel and believe they are connected to Jesus Christ. They may feel as if Jesus is very distant or “other”. Jesus was clothed humanity and in taking on humanity, He took on suffering, he took on work. At the very least all of humanity can have a connection an intimacy with Christ because He like us was human in all things but sin. Christ, like us,