SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 24, 2019

Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.

Luke 6:38
Dear Friends,

In 1989 Emerson Fittipaldi, a Brazilian champion auto racing driver, had five wins and finished in the top five in every race he completed. Among his wins was a dominant performance in the 1989 Indianapolis 500 where he led 158 of 200 laps and won by two laps, but only after a dramatic duel with another champion auto race, Al Unser, Jr. in the closing laps of the race. Unser ran down Fittipaldi after a late-race restart and passed him for the lead on lap 196. Three laps later, Fittipaldi used lapped traffic to his advantage to pull alongside Unser on the backstretch. Neither driver would give way, and the two cars touched wheels as they went through turn three side by side. Unser's car spun out of control to hit the outside wall, while Fittipaldi was able to maintain sufficient control to keep his car moving straight.

Unser immediately released his restraints, climbed out of his car and waited on the track apron for Fittipaldi to come by to receive the checked flag. Everyone speculated on what gesture Unser would give to the man who had just cost him the world’s most prestigious auto race. But to the fans surprise, Unser gave Fittipaldi a totally unexpected thumbs up!

When reporters eventually caught up with Unser and asked about his thumbs up, he smiled and answered, “Well, if I did what people thought I was going to do, they’d have forgotten it in 24 hours. But I figured everyone will remember what I did just now for a long time. It’ll make all the highlight reels.”

To be a disciple of Christ we’re invited (commanded?) to do the unexpected. "To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the cheek, turn and offer the other. If someone grabs your shirt, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously. Here is a simple rule of thumb for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them!

Do these things and you will stand out among others in subtle and inspiring ways. Some of these unexpected things we’ll do in imitating Jesus won’t make the highlight reels – they will make the reels that really count – the picture of an authentic follower of Jesus, who came not to be served but to lay down his life for others.

Father John Kasper, OSFS
Teens - The new order is revealed in today’s Gospel and wow is it a newsflash for the early Christians! “Love your enemies and do good to them and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great” (Luke 6:35). This statement challenges societal norms in a way that seems impossible. How can you forgive those who harm you or your family? Casting judgement is a common occurrence. If we spent time meditating on this sentence, we could save a lot of wasted time worrying over what we cannot control. Brooding over others’ shameful acts does not bring mercy to our world. However, prayer and compassionate actions can create ripple effects through family, community, city, nation, and world. In times of great strife, look to your faith leaders, particularly your bishops and pope for words of encouragement on how to live this difficult, yet central, commandment to “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31).

In Youth Ministry we look at the different ways we meet the challenge Jesus gives to us to do to others as you would have them do to you. This coming week teens gather

- Sunday, February 24 Confirmation Candidates gather for an evening on the Eucharist.
- Wednesday, February 27 Youth Group gathers for an evening on stress.
- Confirmation Candidates continue to work with sponsors sharing their faith journey so far and hopes for the future as they grow in faith.

Today’s Gospel tells us that God gives us unlimited chances to act in loving ways toward others. We know that God shows mercy to us by forgiving us and by giving us another chance to choose to follow his ways. God wants us to be merciful just as he is merciful. This means that God expects us to give each other unlimited chances. If we remember that God doesn’t show love to us just one time; God shows love all the time. God goes the extra mile for us and today Jesus tells us that we are to go the extra mile for others. Gary

Walking with Purpose:
Women’s Catholic Bible Study
Are you searching for something more in your life? Do you desire to grow in your Catholic faith? Would you like to connect with other women in our parish? We invite you to join us for the new Walking with Purpose at St. Perpetua.

Weekly group sessions are starting on Monday 3/4 from 7:30-9:00 PM and Friday 3/1 from 9:30-11:00 AM. Living in the Father’s Love, a six-week study of God the Father, reveals how deeply relevant the Gospels are to our relationships, both with God and those we love. No previous Bible study experience is necessary; come as you are as we discover God’s love for us. Walking with Purpose transforms the hearts and lives of women by providing Bible studies that enable women to know Christ through Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Interested in learning more? Please contact parishioners Chrissa Ventrelle at cventrel@hotmail.com or Michelle McGrath at mregaliamcgrath@gmail.com or visit www.walkingwithpurpose.com.

Outreach Agency Distributions
Thanks to individual monthly support, we were able to send $2,000.00 ($500.00 each) to the following agencies: Options for Women, Project Hope Anka Behavioral Health, Putnam Clubhouse and Meals on Wheels – Diablo Region.

Please note: There are four 5th Sunday Second Collections this year: March 30 & 31, June 29 & 30, September 28 & 29 and December 28 & 29. You are wonderful in your support of these second collections and for that we are very grateful. February Food Basket, Jim Fulton was happy to deliver 36 bags of pasta, tomato sauce and spaghetti sauce to Monument Crisis Center in Concord this month. The need is great, and the parishioners of St. Perpetua are generous in their response to this need. Thank you for continuing to remember to pick up those extra items when out shopping. The requested items for March 9/10 are Canned Fruit/ Vegetables and Hominy.

Lafayette Rotary is Helping American Girls Rescued from Sex-Trafficking.
Consider joining in this Gala Fundraiser.
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the great experiences in my life as a classroom teacher was the afternoon teacher’s lounge. That’s where, at the end of the day, teachers told the adorable stories of their funny first-graders, or teachers in the upper grades shared their challenges of making history interesting to junior-high boys who were more interested in pulling desks out from under each other.

But the most challenging (and, in hindsight, valuable) part of that time was learning from the more experienced teachers. One day I was congratulating myself on standing up to a fourth-grader who had been talking back to me. She got my most humiliating stare, and then, in her silence, a long homework assignment.

“Well,” said a revered and much beloved faculty member, “I think you embarrassed her because you’re bigger and have the authority. I try never to ridicule or demean a student, no matter how obnoxious, just because I can. There are other ways to discipline without humiliating a child.”

Ach! Her correction went straight to my heart, and straight to that place where behavior changes. I hope I have never since that day used any authority I might have to demean anyone, especially one who is powerless.

Notice how St. Luke gets straight to the point, early in his gospel, to make sure we remember how deeply Jesus wants us to understand this. Pray for those who mistreat you, says Jesus. Bless those who curse you. Do good to those who hate you.

It’s exactly the opposite of what we want to do. It’s totally counterintuitive. So, come to think of it, was the Cross. But by such wondrous love the world was saved.

What grace have you found in praying for those who have hurt you?
Kathy McGovern ©2019 www.thestoryandyou.com
The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a

BLUE BARREL

At all the masses on the weekends of

MARCH 09/10 & 16/17

Benefiting:
Friendly Manor, Project Hope, Trinity and other needy groups!

ITEMS WANTED:

NEW UNDERWEAR FOR WOMEN & MEN

NEW SOCKS - BABY WIPES & DIAPERS

Please drop off items at the front of School,

Or at the Church Office at the upper lot.

03-2019