THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 27
2019

The tax collector prayed, “O God, be merciful to me a sinner.”

Luke 18:13

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Parish Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Dear Friends,

I recently read an article about Pope Francis and an Italian Capuchin Franciscan named Fr. Gianfranco Priori. At the end of a meeting in Rome last week with a large group of Franciscans, this friar stepped forward to talk to Pope Francis. He is rector of a shrine in the Appenine Mountains. But he's also known as Frate Mago or "Brother Wizard" because of his legendary magic tricks. Pope Francis said to him, "Show me what you can do." "I started to play a game with a deck of our Piacenza cards," said the friar. "I asked the pope if he knew them. And he said yes, they also work in Argentina. "Then I showed him all the cards and asked him to think of one without touching it. I put the deck in his hands and asked him to tell us what card he had in mind. The pope said, 'The Three of Diamonds.' At that point, I lifted the pope's white zucchetto, and there was his card. He burst into a beautiful smile and then said, 'That's great! But you're a devil!'"

But during the card trick Brother Wizard told the pope about the "real magic." In 2016 the Our Lady of Ambro Shrine where the friar is rector was devastated by an earthquake. In a few months, the Capuchin priest managed to put the area back on its feet. He obtained a private loan of one and a half million euros from a local bank and last December he reopened the church. This helped revive the entire local economy, which had been pretty much wiped out with the closure of the shrine. The locals view the whole operation as a miracle because in the past 10 months the shrine has attracted larger crowds of pilgrims and tourists than ever before.

I thought about Frate Mago or “Brother Wizard” after I returned from the funeral Mass for Fr. Mathew Vellankal on Monday at St. Bonaventure Church in Clayton. He was a charismatic priest from India who had been ministering in parishes in the Oakland Diocese for the past 20 years. Fr. Mathew was killed in an automobile accident on October 10 in Colusa County. An archbishop visiting from India was also a passenger and killed in the crash. Matt was a magician himself. In fact, when St. Perpetua Church was celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2002 with a gala at the Soda Center at St. Mary’s College, I had invited Matt to bring his magic to our party. He went from table to table during the banquet performing mystifying card tricks for each table of guests. Fr. Vellankal was only fifty years old. In a Church and Diocese that is already reeling from the clergy shortage, he was the sixth priest in the Diocese of Oakland to die this year. May Fr. Mathew intercede for this Church of ours which he loved and served so creatively and generously, asking God to give our leadership the courage and creativity to expand the ranks of ordained ministry to meet the needs of the People of God. And pray for Fr. Joseph Parrekatt, pastor of St. Anne Church near Rossmore, who is recovering from injuries sustained in that accident.

Fr. John Kasper, OSFS

Friday, November 1—All Saints Day
Mass 8:30 am, Church
School and Community
Have a Fair Trade Halloween

What Can You Do to Support Fair Trade This Halloween?

Buy fair trade certified chocolate and candy to give out to trick or treaters:
- http://bit.ly/1Lyq0XY
- http://bit.ly/1UWG2oF

Bake tasty Halloween and autumn treats using fair trade recipes:
- http://bit.ly/1LgWoCK

Look for fair trade symbols online and in stores as you prepare for your Halloween celebration: “Fair Trade Certified, and “Equal Exchange”.

Halloween, Fair Trade, and Catholic Social Thought

In many countries around the world, Halloween is celebrated with jack-o-lanterns, costumes, and candy. During this time when so many are purchasing trick or treat goodies, it is important to think about how these products were made and transported, from the fields to our homes. Here are a few connections between CST, fair trade, and being a mindful consumer during the holiday season.

One of the most important themes of CST is the life and dignity of the human person. As Christians, we are called to participate in society and act in ways that promote the innate dignity of every human being. One way you can support this theme of CST is by purchasing fair trade products during this Halloween season.

Another theme of CST is the common good. Fair trade products uphold the common good by creating an economy that focuses on improving social conditions so that all people can flourish.

Fair trade allows for an option for the poor, an important teaching in CST. By buying fair trade products, we are showing our concern for the most vulnerable members in our global community by supporting their work on local farms and ensuring that each worker is paid fair and just wages.

Finally, fair trade products take into account the natural environment, supporting the CST theme of care for God’s creation. Not only are fair trade products made in ecologically sustainable ways, but the process of farming ensures that the environment is protected for those in society who rely on it for their livelihoods.

Source: CRS Fair Trade Program (http://bit.ly/1grmuWy)
Coming Up this Week at St. Perpetua
October 27 - November 3, 2019

Sunday, October 27
9:30 am Rise & Shine Mass, Church
10:30 am Faith Formation Class, St. Francis Rm
11:30 am Teen/Family Mass, Church
7:30 pm Youth Group Gathering, St. Francis Rm

Monday, October 28
7:00 pm JustFaith, St. Francis Rm
7:15 pm Centering Prayer, Chapel

Tuesday, October 29
9:30 am Women Walking with Purpose, Grand Hall East
7:00 pm Women Walking with Purpose, Grand Hall East
7:00 pm RCIA, Conference Rm

Wednesday, October 30
6:30 pm Choir Practice, Church

Thursday, October 31
9:15 am Bible Study with Sr. Laurel, St. Francis Rm
7:00 pm Bible Study with Sr. Laurel, St. Francis Rm

Friday, November 1
8:30 am All Saints Day, Church (Mass with School & Community)

Saturday, November 2
6:00 pm Beer & Pizza Party following the 5 pm Mass

Sunday, November 3
9:30 am Children’s Liturgy of the Word, St. Francis Rm
10:30 am Faith Formation Class, St. Francis Rm
11:30 am Teen/Family Mass, Church
6:00 pm Faith Formation Class, St. Francis Rm
7:30 pm Confirmation Gathering, Community Center

Don’t forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to sleep Saturday night, November 2.

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK
Chris Bruzzone, Dylan Cazin, Arelene Fannin, Jimmy Fulton, Tish Reardon, Joseph Farrell, Rich Delaney, Marie Gidre, Tim Hennessy, Sharon Clark and Bridget Teranen.

Pasión, alegría y belleza: Britten, Poulenc y Fauré
Voci Women’s Vocal Ensemble
Bob Wells, director

When and Where
Saturday, November 16, 7:30 PM
St. Perpetua Catholic Church
$15 students and Parishioners, $25 at the door, $20 advance
FREE for children between 6 and 12
Available at the door; or online from brownpapertickets.com or www.vocisings.org
Information: (510) 531-8714

Mass Intentions
October 26 - November 3, 2019

Saturday
5:00 pm Dan Holden
9:30 am Carol Denehey
11:30 am Virginia & Fedel Bicomona

Sunday
8:00 am Barbara Trarcey
9:30 am Corine Malanca
11:30 am Valerie Silvestri
8:30 am Chase Rusthoven
5:00 pm Raoul Rangel
8:00 am For the Community
9:30 am Jim Drennan
11:30 am James Moran

We together pray for the sick:

Saturday, November 2
5:00 pm Dan Holden
9:30 am Carol Denehey
11:30 am Virginia & Fedel Bicomona
The Way of the Cross
BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED BOOK FOR PRAYER ($1.95)
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Are you looking for a faith-filled, nurturing school environment for your student?

St. Perpetua School offers classes for students in Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade. For more information regarding our TK or Kindergarten programs, please join us for an informational meeting on November 8. Please RSVP at


or call the school office for more details. 925 284 1640

BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD

ST. PERPETUA CATHOLIC SCHOOL