

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 27, 2019

Why was the **tax collector's** prayer better than the **Pharisee's** prayer?

Because the tax collector actually made a **connection with God**, but the Pharisee only made a connection with **himself**.

- Tax collectors were **despised** by the Jewish community in Palestine.
- They were Jews who **collaborated** with the occupying Roman forces by collecting taxes from **fellow Jews**. They often collected **more** than the law required, **pocketing** the extra.
- The **Pharisees** were just the opposite.
- They were the **most respected** members of the Jewish community, the elite, the undisputed religious leaders of the nation.

And yet, Jesus **praises** the tax collector's prayer and **criticizes** the Pharisee's prayer.

- Through the centuries, in fact, the tax collector's simple prayer, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner," has been taken up as a **complete summary** of Christian spirituality.
- There are even cases of monks who made this prayer **the only words that they spoke** and reached heights of **sanctity** by means of it.

This prayer makes a **connection** with God because it **recognizes two things**.

First, it acknowledges **God's greatest quality** in relation to fallen mankind, his **mercy**.

- The word "mercy" comes from the Latin "**miseriors** [mih-SAIR-rih-cores]: miser (wretched, miserable) + cor (heart)".
- Literally, it means to take **someone else's wretchedness** into one's **heart**. That's what God does with us.

Second, the tax collector's prayer recognizes his **need** for that mercy.

- He accuses himself of being a **sinner**,
- someone who has **selfishly abused God's gifts** and **used** instead of **loved** his **neighbor**.

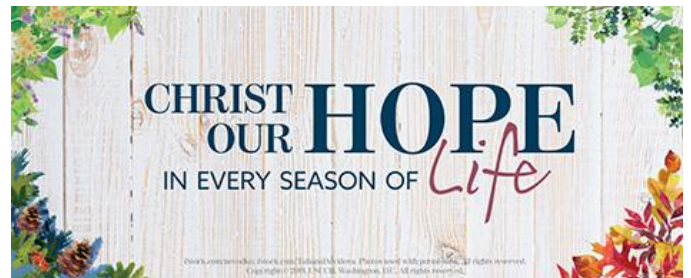
The Pharisee's prayer shows **no knowledge** either of God's **mercy** or of his **need** for God; rather, it is an exercise in narcissism, in **self-admiration**. God **wants** to connect with us, but he can only do so if we **let** him, and we can't let him if we don't think we **need** him.

--Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome



NET Teens! For the 5th Year, Nativity is thrilled THIS SUNDAY to host New Evangelization Team--a youth ministry program for North America founded in 1981. The youth will be working with our Confirmation Age Students and teens and youth from St. Gabriel's parish. Welcome them at the 10 am Mass or after! Thank you NET and we praise God for your ministry as they travel for 9 months around the US! (You may offer donations to the volunteers if you feel so lead). Thank you to parish/host families hosting these great young people! info: www.netusa.org!

Tech Support: Please note that since May there have been many email and tech issues at the Rectory. If you have a concern or SERIOUS message especially of a pastoral nature please email lauraj@nativitychurch.net or tech support via Mauricio Castro at tech@nativitychurch.net. Please do not email the Pastor's email as there have been too many issues, spam, and hacking.



Celebrate Respect Life Month! Every Day is Pro Life Day but October in a special way is a month to honor life. You're invited to join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month this October with the message "Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent"! Learn more at www.usccb.org/respectlife.

Volunteers are needed for Religious Education on Sundays and for monthly Youth Days. All must follow VIRTUS and Child Protection policies of the ADW.

Question of the week: What can I sacrifice to provide something for others?

Mass Intentions

October 26 – November 2, 2019

Sat. 10/26	8:00 am	Home-bound & sick parishioners
	5:30 pm	People of the Parish
Sun. 10/27	8:00am	+Fr. Steve Schenck, SDB
	10:00am	Nativity all children/youth
	1:00pm	+Maria Magdalena Medrano
Mon. 10/28	12:00	+Jennifer Hulsinger.
Tue. 10/29	12:00	Radich family
Wed. 10/30	12:00	+Florence Radcliffe
Thu. 10/31	12:00	No mass
Fri. 11/21	12:00	All Parishioners
	7:00pm	All Parishioners
Sat. 11/2	8:00 am	Holy Souls
	5:30 pm	Holy Souls

Please pray for the sick and home-bound of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Catherine Baum, *Jose Guadalupe Bonilla, *Ann Butler, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Eileen Carroll-Doshier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Linda Foster, *Fr. Ricky Gancayo, *Charlie Gick, *Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *James Humphries, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *Manuel Juarez, *Busara Kennedy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Theresa McNair, *Agnes Moore, *Larry Morris, *Iris Newman, *Gloria Payne, *Fr. Everett Pearson, *Michelle Perez, *James Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Fr. Vince Rigdon, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Robert Schaeffer, *Andre Sims, *Bonafacio Selayo, *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Suzie Thompson, *Auristela Toro, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams.

October *-* Month of Rosary



Mary is our great intercessor with the Lord and interceding with her through the Rosary can be an especially uplifting and fruitful way for those we Love.

Invoke the intercession of our Blessed Mother for healing, strengthening of faith etc.



***Solemnity of All Saints
A Holy Day of obligation***

Mass schedule: Fri. 11/1 12:00 English
7:00 pm (bilingual)

No vigil mass on Thursday, Oct. 31, due to party at MPD-Ward 4

Thanks for the Run & the Funds! Hundreds of ADW lay faithful and people of the region ran the Marine Corps Marathon 2019. The "Run for Vocations" sponsored by ADW and the Diocese of Arlington includes lay people who raise money for running the marathon to help our regional seminarians. Every mile they run raises money for a special needs fund should a seminarian need medical care, car repairs, emergency money to fly home, or emergency dental care. Thank you to all who helped or who ran! **Reminders:** Your Seminarians study 6-10 years with no paycheck. The Catholic Appeal covers their education and room and board and their health insurance only. Support of any seminarian is encouraged, if paid through the parish your donation is deductible. See: www.dcpriest.org for all the good news about local ADW Vocations to Priesthood!

White Mass 10th Anniversary! Renewing Baptismal Promises, Recognizing the Gifts of Persons with Special Needs. - Sun, **Oct 27**, at The Cathedral 11:30 am, with Archbishop Gregory as celebrant.

RCIA You Are Invited To: The Source! The Source is a series of dinner conversations to explore the basics of life and faith in a friendly, informal, and open environment; no strings attached. Sessions are on Wednesdays, Oct 16 – Nov 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Anthony Catholic School Cafeteria (across from the Post Office). For more information and to RSVP go to sgdc.church or call (202) 726-9092, Ext. 108. Invitation cards located at both entrances to church.