

**Our Household Church – Call - Conversion - Commitment**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 30 August 2020**

**CALL TO THE FEAST**

**All:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

**Eldest:** Creator, we gather to remember Your Love and action in our lives. **All:** We enter your story!

**Women:** You fill Creation with life and purpose. **All:** Help us live our lives with purpose!

**Men:** Each morning You wake the Sun whose Light wakens us **All:** Help us be light in darkness!

**Women:** Your desire fashioned Creation in Wisdom and in Love. **All:** Help us with Wisdom to Love Creation!

**Eldest:** You formed us in Your own image. To see each other is to see You. **All:** Help us mirror You!

**Women:** You entrust Creation to our care. **All:** As wise stewards may we entrust Creation to our children!

**Youngest:** To know and love You as Creator, we practice care for creatures. **All:** Help us serve Creation!

**Eldest:** Our mis/takes can cause hurt and division. **Youngest:** Your love is seen in mercy: You are ever present.

**Eldest:** Life is Your gift and is at times fragile. **Youngest:** You teach us in Jesus about how to heal the broken.

**Eldest:** Death is a sister that opens us to change. **Youngest:** You change our hurts to hope, our death to life.

**Eldest:** As Creator Your mercy is given as aid for all. **Youngest:** So that those who seek might find You.

**Eldest:** As with the covenants and the prophets You taught us to seek salvation. **All:** Help us hear your Word.

**All:** We live in the House of the Trinity: our hearts and our families.

You so loved the world, Creator, Source of Life, Father and Mother sharing with us your Son, our Savior.

**Women:** You gave Jesus human form by the Holy Spirit's inspiration and the "Yes" of the Virgin Mary,

**Men:** Jesus shared our human nature and witnessed to us how to live beyond sin's bondage.

**Eldest:** Jesus proclaimed salvation to the poor, acceptance to the rejected, inclusion to foreigners.

**Youngest:** Jesus proclaimed freedom to prisoners, compassion to the abandoned, health to the ill.

**Eldest and Youngest:** Jesus changed water to wine, strangers to friends, sorrow to joy.

**Youngest:** How do we do the same?

**Women:** In Creation life wells up from within: God as Father/Mother opens our eyes to our lives.

**Men:** Jesus, by dying for us and restoring life, conquered death, to show us how to die to ourselves. His Cross for us is a call to take up our cross, die to ourselves so we can begin to live for others.

**Women:** We are to live for the One who died and rose for us and for each other. Live for an/other.

**All:** But not alone. Never alone.

**Eldest:** To remember is God's breath, the Holy Spirit, breathing awareness, wholeness and balance into us.

**All:** May we hear Jesus' Call to live the Gospel way in the world entering Conversion and live Committedly.

May we be open to Your Spirit's action of bringing fullness to Creation.

**READING AND FAITH SHARING FOR THE DAY:**

*Today's Gospel is [Matthew 16:21-27](#). For the first two Readings [Jeremiah 20:7-9](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#)  
Each of the Readings can be read or simply the Gospel.*

WHILE SOMEONE READS THE SCRIPTURE(S), LISTEN WELL. BE ATTENTIVE TO THE IMAGE BEING PAINTED, OR THE STORY BEING TOLD. DOES THE STORY OR THE IMAGE CALL TO MIND ANYTHING SIMILAR IN YOUR OWN LIFE OR EXPERIENCE?

*After the reading, share your impressions of the reading(s) with each other.*

✓ When have you **HAD TO GIVE SOMETHING UP**, not because you wanted to, but because "you just knew you had to change" what was happening in your Life? Is there anything you want to say about your experience?

✓ You know that thing of "**DO SOMETHING FOR FORTY DAYS**" or "**SIX WEEKS**" and you have formed a new habit? When have you had such a goal? How did it go? What value was there in the action and resulting change/transformation?

✓ Tell of a time that you decided that **YOU** wanted to achieve something for self or for another, and "**YOU SET OUT ON THE 'QUEST'**" to make it happen. What did you have to sacrifice to achieve the goal?

- ✓ *Each one of the moments discussed above are moments of change*
  - **CALL:** *Jeremiah* is pretty graphic! **“You seduced me, God, and I let myself be seduced!”** The “I” that was Jeremiah became dedicated to something else. Call changes us. His allowing God to “have his way” with him apparently was not easy! What “Cross” is here? We are challenged by the Word to open our lives in relationship. How have you lived this?
  - **CONVERSION:** *Paul* enters here: v.2 **“discern the will of God, what is good, pleasing and perfect.”** Doing that will take more than five minutes. **Discerning conversion** is the long haul of trans-formation. What stands in the way of me seeking the goal? What “Cross” is here? This is a challenge to return to center, to seek balance in order to **see, hear, act.**
  - **COMMITMENT:** The consequences of decisions demand stick-to-it-iveness! Lots of impediments will arise, but to be committed is to bear through them and to seek resolution. **What “Cross” is here today?**
- ✓ *Which of these three crosses (Call, Conversion, Commitment) have been a part of your life? How often are aware of the process taking place? What stood waiting between the steps of Conversion/Cross and the next step? Where has this process led for you?*

## SHARING THE FEAST

*The feast can be a loaf of bread (rice-cakes, chapati, naan, pita, tortilla, baguette, etc. or a meal) and a glass/cup (or individual glasses) of (wine, water, cider, grape juice). The bread and the wine are passed to one another. Each person serving the individual next to him or her.*

**Eldest:** Creator God, Source of All Life, we gather in the household where you planted us (*present to each other as well as at a distance*)

**All:** We give you thanks for this space and place, these hearts and the mercy we know of belonging. We remember and celebrate the Life, Teaching, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, your Son.

**Youngest:** As we break the Bread of your Word and the Bread of Our Table, may what we receive help us nurture others as Jesus nurtured his followers and people of his time.

*(Share now the bread with each other. Pause until everyone has finished)*

**All:** We remember how Your Spirit moved over the waters at the beginning of time and brought life to the World from the seas. We remember the importance of water in the desert, in death and resurrection and in our being baptized. We recognize that, as we drink, we seek Your Spirit to quench our spiritual thirst. May we open ourselves to your presence in one another. *(Share now a drink with each other.)*

## PRAYER OF THANKS AND PRIASE

**Women:** We thank you for the leaders of the Church: Francis our Pope, *N.* our Bishop, *N.* the pastor as well as deacon *N.* (and *N.*) of our parish community. We thank you for the members of parish Councils, catechists, Liturgical leaders, outreach ministers and all who serve our community. **All:** May they know our gratitude.

**Men:** We thank you for each person gathered here (*or afar*) hoping to come to know you better in one another.

**All:** May our lives grow in deeper appreciation of your presence in us.

**Women:** We pray for all who are alone and live in a darkened world. **All:** Help us be light for them.

**Men:** We pray for members of our societies who feel disenfranchised and disrespected.

**All:** Help us be catalysts of change and channels of hope.

**Women:** Comfort those impacted by COVID-19 and its complications.

**All:** May those who work with people suffering help to draw them to life.

**Additional Prayers:**

**Our Father who art in heaven...**

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