

September 27, 2015

# Ordinary Time

Twenty-sixth Sunday



## God Doesn't Follow Our Rules

In today's scripture readings, Moses wishes for God's gift to be distributed as widely as possible. St. James addresses himself to those of us who have an abundance of material goods, warning us that we have effectively become idolaters, valuing our wealth over humans who are God's image and likeness in the world. In the Gospel Jesus warns us, his followers against preserving rank and giving scandal. Jesus encourages us to look beyond the parameters we have set for ourselves and for him. If God has called even us to follow Jesus, why couldn't God call others too? Where do these messages hit home for you?

### MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, September 30  
6:00 p.m. For the Welfare of the Parish  
Saturday, October 3  
4:30 p.m. Agnes Olsovsky  
Sunday, October 4  
8:00 a.m. Anton Stryk and Frances & Joe Koudelka

### Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

Read ahead and be prepared for next weekend, *The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible:

**First Reading:** Genesis 2:18-24  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 128  
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 2:9-11  
**Gospel:** Mark 10:2-16



**BIBLE STUDY**  
*Come join us for a bible study class after Mass on Wednesdays until 7:30 p.m.*

**St. Anne K.J.Z.T. Society #4 Quarterly Meeting, October 11** after the 8 a.m. Mass, School Chapel. Members invited and encouraged to attend.

## 2015 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2015 Assessment .....	\$7,532.00
Contributions So Far .....	\$3,821.88
Amount Yet to be Contributed .....	\$3,710.12

*Consider at making a contribution.*

## REFLECTION

### *Freedom of The Spirit*

In today's Gospel the disciples of Jesus were struggling with the question: How could the Spirit be experienced outside the community of Jesus?

In an effort to educate his own in the charismatic freedom of the Spirit to blow where it wills, to inspire whom it may and to empower whom it chooses Jesus challenges them to venture beyond the protocol and institution and open themselves to God's mysterious workings. Even someone the disciples regarded as outside their group can be acceptable to God and a vessel of the Spirit. If that person is not against us, insists Jesus, that person can be an agent of the power and Spirit of God.

Jesus' challenge to his own, both then and now, is one of inclusiveness. To meet this challenge, believers must be willing to surrender preconceived ideas and judgments to the sometimes, unimaginable ways of God. Too frequently, those who are different, those who dissent and those who march to the beat of a different drummer are ignored and rejected outright. Rather than eliminate the maverick, might not the church and the world be better served if we were to truly heed Jesus' insistence that "anyone who is not against us is with us!" With the author of the Book of Numbers we pray, "Would that God might bestow the Spirit on us all!"

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



September 28 – Spence Lesikar  
September 29 – Robert Lev  
October 2 – Hattie Stryk

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



October 1 – Theresa & Dennis Tousek  
October 2 – Congratulations Georgiann & Louis Barta on your Sixth-fifth Wedding Anniversary – Denise & Gary Greive

**Praha Cookbook** sales have been great. Many thanks to everyone who purchased a cookbook. Cookbooks are still available (\$25). If you have not purchased your cookbook yet or need extras for gifts contact Georgia Cerny, Denise Greive, Cyndi Stryk, Kathleen Svatek or Theresa Tousek.

**Picnic Appreciation Dinner, Today, 11:00 a.m.**



## ENCYCLICAL LETTER *LAUDATO SI'* ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME Hill Briefing (*continued*)

### INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

- The encyclical is about integral ecology:
  - “We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature” (139).
- The encyclical is about the poor:
  - “The poorest areas and countries are less capable of adopting new models for reducing environmental impact because they lack the wherewithal to develop the necessary processes and to cover their costs” (52).
- The encyclical is about work:
  - “Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work” (128). “In order to continue providing employment, it is imperative to promote an economy which favours productive diversity and business creativity” (129).
- The encyclical is about the common good:
  - “Human ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good..., “the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment” (156). “Society as a whole, and the state in particular, are obliged to defend and promote the common good” (157).
- The encyclical is about our children and grandchildren:
  - “Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us” (159).

### CHALLENGES EVERYONE

- The encyclical challenges both left and right:
  - “Instead of resolving the problems of the poor and thinking of how the world can be different, some can only propose a reduction in the birth rate. At times, developing countries face forms of international pressure which make economic assistance contingent on certain policies of “reproductive health”. ... To blame population growth instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the issues” (50).
  - “At times we see an obsession with denying any pre-eminence to the human person; more zeal is shown in protecting other species than in defending the dignity which all human beings share in equal measure” (90).
  - “It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted” (91).

– to be continued –