

## **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** **August 4, 2019**

### **SEEING BEYOND THIS WORLD**

In the middle of this hot and hazy days of summer, there is nothing wrong in taking a well - deserved break; sit and relax with family members, friends, visitors, at the beach, in the park or even at home with sumptuous meal if possible. After all, with the summer's heat upon us, who can blame us for treating ourselves to something special.

The readings of today address the rich and those who pursue wealth as their one and only reason to exist on earth. In today's first reading from Ecclesiastes and the Gospel from St Luke, both feature a wealthy and successful individual considering how to spend his time with what he accumulated. The rich man in Jesus' parable thinks he is all set to enjoy life, but he is about to get a most unpleasant surprise of his life. While in the first reading, the unknown author who identifies himself as Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes in Greek), realizes he can't take with him anything he has labored for, and this doesn't leave him any happier. This preacher wants us to reflect on futility, uselessness, fruitlessness and pointlessness of life and the pursuit.

Where do we fit in here? The second reading is a solution to a life of vanity. Here, Saint Paul's words of advice to the people of Colossae considering their situation was a smart and an insightful alternative: "Seek what is above." He exhorts us too to set our hearts on the next life where we hope to behold the beatific vision of God. (Col 3:1-4). Our Penny Catechism tells us that God created us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world as to be happy with Him in the next." As we listen to the readings today, let us think of how we should balance our search for happiness and security. It addresses inordinate greed and lust after material things that has blinded many people and turned them into narcissistic, arrogant, selfish, haughty, conceited, self important, opinionated, egoistic and superior; admirable only themselves and their cronies, despicable and intolerable to others.

The author in the first reading is making one point clear that the pursuit of material things does not guarantee our last happiness. It is all vanity, the toil people put into acquiring wealth, only to leave it to their heirs. Only faith in God and afterlife can secure a lasting happiness.

Jesus in the Gospel refuses to get involved in a family dispute. Instead, he focuses on the cause of the dispute – greed. In the parable, he stresses the foolishness of depending on material things for one's security rather than on God. In our search for security and happiness in this life, we should take note of this. Here, the rich man forgets God, forgets eternal life, and forgets his obligation to the poor (like today that we are invited to support Latin America and Home Missions). He is truly a 'fool' because he has not known how to use wisely the wealth which he had. Remember in the Book of Job, Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there," (Job1:21).

There is a story of a wealthy American banker who was standing on the pier of a coastal village in Mexico when a small boat with one fisherman aboard docked. Inside the boat were a few large Tuna fish. The banker complimented the fisherman on his catch, then asked, 'How long were you out?'

'Oh, an hour or two,' the fisherman replied.

'Why didn't you stay out longer and catch more fish?'

'I've enough here to meet the immediate needs of my family.'

But what do you do with the rest of your time?'

'I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take a siesta in the afternoon, and stroll into the village in the evening to sip a little wine, play my guitar and chat with my friends. Believe me, I have a full life,' said the fisherman.

The banker wasn't impressed. 'You should spend more time fishing,' he said. Then with the proceeds you could buy a bigger boat. With the proceeds from that you buy several boats. Eventually, you would have a fleet of fishing boats. Then you could open up your own processing factory and cannery. You would need to leave this village and move to Mexico City, then to Los Angeles, and eventually New York, from where you would run your expanding business.'

'How long would all this take?' the fisherman asked.

'About twenty years,' the banker replied.

'And what then?' asked the fisherman.

'When the time is right you could float your company on the stock market, sell your stock to the public and make millions.'

'Then what?' asked the fisherman.

'Then you could retire and move to a small coastal village, where you could sleep late, fish a little, play with your children, take a siesta in the afternoon, stroll into the village in the evening and have some fun with your friends.'

'What do you think I'm doing right now?' asked the fisherman.

'Life is a gift to be grateful for, not a possession to cling to.'

From the Pastor's Desk: Rev Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP

### **Stewardship**

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving on Sunday For 07/28/19 our Offering was \$3,315.00

Last Sunday second collection we collected \$1,273.00 for the Air Conditioning. Thank you for your generosity

This Sunday our second collection Latin America & Home Missions. Please, be generous. Thank you!

### **OUR CATHOLIC FAITH AND EDUCATION**

The Director of Latino Outreach Program, Maria Zamorano left fliers on Catholic Education and financial assistance for those interested. You can call 646 794 2885 or visit [CatholicSchoolsNY.org](http://CatholicSchoolsNY.org) for more information.

*Do you feel call to serve in any of the following role at the Mass?*

*Extra Ordinary Minister the Holy Eucharist*

*Altar Servers, Sacristan, Lector, Choir, Usher etc.*

*Call our Parish Office*

### **Requirements to be a Godparents or a Sponsor for Sacrament of Confirmation**

- A Catholic over 18 years of age
- Possess a mature catholic faith and knows, understands and participates in the Catholic Church Community
- Not the parents or Step—parents
- Fully—interested, Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic Church and celebrates the Eucharist at least weekly.
- He or She must be in good standing with the Church. If married, marriage is recognized by the Church.

HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN AT ALL TIME

### **Use of our Parish Hall**

We are working on the Guidelines for the use / renting of our Hall. Please, call our Parish Office for more information.

### **Sundays Readings:**

**First Reading:** Ecclesiastes 1:2: 2, 21-23 p. 65

"All things are vanity!" Some people have labored skillfully a whole lifetime, but the fruits of their labor go to others who did nothing. What good come from hard work? Everything is vanity.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 p. 66

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11 p.66 Since you now belong to Christ, set your heart on things above rather than on things of earth. For in Christ there is not Greek or Jew, slave or free person. "Christ is all and in all".

**Gospel:** Luke 12:13-21 p. 67

Jesus told a parable about the rich man who stored up all his wealth in order to eat, drink and be merry. God told him. "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you." In this way Jesus encouraged people to grow rich, not for themselves, but in God's sight.

## **2019 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal Update**

Goal: \$39,500

Total Amount Paid: \$34,706.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$38,563.00

Number of Families: 120

Percent of goal: 98%

If you haven't had the chance to make your contribution, there is there still time. You can use the pledge letters that have already arrived at your home. And if you have not received one or have never made a pledge before, it is very easy to do so online.

Just go to [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org), click on Donate, select an amount, and direct your gift to our Church:

Immaculate Conception, Yonkers

### **All are welcome to our Up Coming Events**

- Religious Education Registration 2019-2020 **If you have not registered your children you will have an opportunity Saturday, August 10, (Wednesday & Thursday, August 14 & 15, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm). We are offering Adult classes for those who would like to become Catholics and those that still need a sacrament.**
- Bible Sharing: Do you want to learn more about the Word of God during the week, in English. Call and let us know whether Wednesday beginning in the month of September is convenient for you.
- Food Collection: This Sunday August 4, we have our monthly food collection for the needy in our community—and as always thank you for your generosity in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

### **Mass Schedule for the week of August 3, 2019 to August 10, 2019 Special Intentions for this week**

#### **Saturday, August 3, 2019:**

12:05pm— Steven Jordan (Health) \* Maureen Brennan

5:00pm - Vincent Nowak + \* Castro Family

7:30pm - Legion De Maria

#### **Sunday, August 4, 2019:**

7:30 am – For the Parishioners

9:00 am – Accion De Gracia \* Abby Figueroa

11:00 am - Brigette Puma & Fred J. Ventrudo + \* Maria Ventrudo

#### **Monday, August 5, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm Available/Disponibile

#### **Tuesday August 6, 2019**

8:15am - Sandra Walker + \*Catherine Omran

12:05pm – Nestor Rivera + \* Marta Vega

#### **Wednesday, August 7, 2019**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Hector Rene Gabriel + \* Jose Gabriel

#### **Thursday, August 8, 2019:**

8:15am - Sonia Okon \* Sylvia Okon

12:05 pm-Steven Jordan Health \* Maureen Brennan

7:00 pm - Accion De Gracia \* Ana Alvarado

#### **Friday, August 9, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Available/Disponibile

7:30pm Efran Garcia Aguilar + Esposa hijos y nietos

#### **Saturday, August 10, 2019:**

12:05pm— Joanne & Robert Oleary \* Catherine Omran

5:00pm - Natevida Santana + \* Castro Family

7:30pm - Maria Lopez Hernandez + \* Walter Alexander

**Mass for Assumption of Mary Thursday August 15, 2019 English Mass 5:00pm and Spanish 7:00pm**

*+Indicates deceased \* Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.*

#### *Changing Station*

*Check out our newest addition, a Baby changing station, located in the Bathroom.*