

### **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/28/07)**

Our readings last week talked about the need for perseverance in prayer. We continue this idea of perseverance coupled with the virtue of humility from today's readings. Sirach reminds us that God is a God of justice and listens to the cry of the oppressed. We also heard last week that we as individual members of the Body of Christ are the main way God addresses injustice in the world. We are the hands of Christ in the world. Very little gets done in the world without our cooperation with God's grace to right the wrongs of the world. God trusts us, He inspires us, to be the answer to our prayers when we act humbly with justice for all.

In this "Culture of Death" we live in, the people who support abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic stem cell research need our help. (You notice I haven't lumped war in with these sins, as bad as war can be. Christians can legitimately differ on the morality of a particular war or conflict due to differing understandings of self-defense. But no Christian anywhere can support the taking of life of the weakest and most innocent of humans). If we choose not to help the people we meet on our journey of life to recognize grave injustice, is it possible we are like the Pharisee who considered himself above the sins of the world? Do we think we are justified with the way we are? Or do we realize in humility that we are part of the problem? Mother Theresa once responded to a young American who started a rant by saying, "You know what's wrong with the church?" Mother Theresa cut into his rant with the humble truth, "I am what is wrong with the church, I am a sinner." When we humbly recognize that we are part of the problem with the church and the world because we don't work for God's will in the world, only then do we make it possible to become part of the solution by humbly cooperating with the infinite mercy of God to help our neighbor in need (both physical and spiritual). May God bless us in our work for His Glory!

## **Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/21/07)**

On Monday one of our third graders was talking with one of our Moms who works at his school, "Wow," he said, "wasn't that a COOL Mass this weekend?" Their discussion was so enthusiastic that a group of children gathered around them asking, "What Church do you go to ??" Indeed, our whole weekend was very COOL, spiritual and filled with the loving presence of our God. Once again the generous hearts of so many made our reception and open house a great success. We had so many of you who just jumped in to help. I want to especially thank the Stewardship Committee who went above and beyond in organizing the hospitality of the weekend.

The readings this week seem particularly pertinent to us as we begin this new phase of our journey as a parish. Ezekiel's reading makes reference to a fertile field that becomes a majestic vine. This is certainly the hope of every parish, that it will bear much fruit for the kingdom of God. And how do we bear much fruit? Psalm 121 reminds us to lift our eyes to the Lord. We do things not in our own power but in His strength. He is surely with us both in our coming and going. Timothy reminds us to keep preaching the Word of God even when it is not convenient, continuing in patience. And the Gospel also exhorts us to persevere, as the widow did. So let us go forth persevering in preaching the Word!

## **Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/14/07)**

Well, we made it!! We're in our new home for the next 5 years. It will take us a month or more to truly settle in, as we are expecting our pews on Tuesday, Oct. 30. It's time to take a deep breath, and especially say thank you to everyone who helped us with the move and unpacking and setting up for our first weekend masses. This weekend we celebrate the dedication of our new church with the Archbishop, as well as remembering the 25th anniversary of the parish. We plan an open house this weekend to show off our new space and host any curious visitors.

This weekend's readings remind us of our need to be grateful and give thanks to God. I think I am especially mindful of thanking people this week as I am in awe of all the help we had over the past 2 weeks in moving and setting up. We had some of the same people available all the time, and you were outstanding in your generosity. We had some who could only make it for a short amount of time, and we had those who were unable to make it because of schedules or health. It would be nice if those who couldn't physically help say a prayer even now to the Lord for our parish. However you were able to help, physically or spiritually, I thank you all in the name of Our Lord Jesus. You have done a wonderful thing in the eyes of the Lord!

Now we need to begin living our faith through imitation of our new patron, St. Francis. We have a lot to learn about him, more than just the popular stories. May St. Francis bless us as we continue to grow in our faith from a mustard seed to the largest of bushes! May we welcome new members and visitors in the name of the Lord under the inspiration of St. Francis! Amen!

## **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/7/07)**

If everything has gone well with our move, welcome to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. If not, have faith! Soon! This week we have celebrated the feasts of St. Theresa of Lisieux, the Guardian Angels, and St. Francis of Assisi. These are three very powerful and inspirational feast days, especially as we begin as St. Francis of Assisi church. St. Theresa teaches us that love in the small things of daily life brings us closer to God. The Guardian Angels remind us of God's constant and watchful protection against the temptations of the world (when was the last time you prayed to your guardian angel?). St. Francis is such a powerful and very profound saint to help us on our journey. Over the years we should learn more about his complicated life and spirituality, beyond the simplistic view the world holds.

Jesus tells us that if we have even a little true faith we can move mountains. I have certainly felt my faith tested over the past few months as we have encountered many obstacles and delays in beginning this next chapter of our parish life to serve the larger catholic community in Longmont. But I know we are about great work for Christ and his church so I am always consoled that time belongs to God and not me. It is not ours to demand that God change time to suit our wants, but rather that we change our wants to serve God. And so we persevere one day at a time, trying to grow in faithfulness to God and neighbor through the small ordinary things of life, seeing in them our path to Christ. May Jesus and St. Francis always bless us in our work for God. Amen!