



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YOU WERE BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM, IN WHICH YOU WERE ALSO RAISED WITH HIM THROUGH FAITH IN THE POWER OF GOD, WHO RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD— Colossians 2:12

July 28, 2013

CHALLENGING GOD	<p>Ancient Judaism held in highest regard those figures in its tradition who were willing to challenge God. This was particularly characteristic of the two patriarchs most highly esteemed, Abraham and Moses. This boldness in addressing God is present in today's story from Genesis, when Abraham attempts to save the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. This resonates with the Gospel passage—the Lord's Prayer—since it was truly bold of Jesus to address the Lord God as "Abba." Our familiarity with this prayer most likely makes us unaware of this. The boldness of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus in addressing God is an expression of a deep, intimate relationship. We tend to argue most heatedly with and speak most tenderly to those whom we love the most. This very human trait is what generates the wide variety of emotions expressed toward God throughout the psalms. Hopefully our own relationship with God is intimate enough that we don't only come asking for favors or with heads bowed meekly, but also ready to question and argue, to praise joyfully, and to embrace our relationship with God lovingly.</p>
SOMETHING TO CONSIDER	<p>An ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE lets your physician, family and friends know your health care preferences, including the types of special treatments you want at the end of life, your desire for diagnostic testing, surgical procedures, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and organ donation. By considering your options early, you can ensure the quality of life that is important to you and avoid having your family "guess" your wishes or having to make critical medical care decisions for you under stress or in emotional turmoil.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Prepare your Advance Health Care Directive:</p> <p>Under state law, you have a legal right to express your health care wishes and to have them considered in situations when you are unable to make these decisions yourself. Use the Advanced Health Care Directive to notify your loved ones of your wishes should you be unable to make your own medical decisions.</p> <p>You may stop by the parish office and we will be happy to provide you with a directive to take home and fill out. It will give you peace of mind.</p>
SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR MARKET BASKET	<p>Next weekend is our monthly collection for Catholic Charities Market Basket. Originally we had hoped each parish family would bring one item each month. While we have several extremely generous donors, we would love to involve more parishioners. In addition to non-perishable food items and hygiene articles, the Catholic Charities Shelter also appreciates donations of coffee, 30-gallon trash bags, men's socks and sunscreen. Thank you so much for your past help...and your <i>future</i> help!</p>
FR. FRANK FERRANTE	<p>Have you on occasion thought "I wonder how Fr. Frank Ferrante is doing?" Well, thanks to many prayers, good medical care and a very positive attitude, Fr. Frank is feeling better now than he has in several years. It has not been easy but now Father is able to enjoy a day without the anxiety of an upcoming operation or daily visits to the doctors. There are so many reasons to give thanks to God each and every day...Fr. Frank's improved health is one of them!</p>
A PRAYER FOR WYD	<p>Oh Holy Spirit, love of the Father and of the Son, with the splendor of your truth and the fire of your love, shed your light upon all young people so that, inspired by their experience at World Youth Day, they may bring faith, hope and charity to the four corners of the earth, becoming great builders of a culture of life and peace and catalysts of a new world. Amen</p>
REFLECTIONS	<p style="text-align: center;">THE 18TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Gospel: Luke 12:13-21</p> <p>We learn of a wealthy man who has much and keeps it to himself. When have my possessions become too important in my life? How can I share my blessing with others.</p>