



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YOU HAVE APPROACHED MOUNT ZION
AND THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD.

Hebrews 12:22a

September 1, 2013

HUMILITY	<p>Today's reading from Sirach celebrates what will become the theme of today's Gospel: humility. Pride causes us to demand from others an exalted estimate of our status, but humility allows us to see things more clearly. It allows us a broader perspective. Humility promises us the favor of God and the love of those who know us.</p> <p>The second reading is a study in contrasts: the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai and the giving of salvation on Mount Zion. The Law's appearance is greeted with solemnity, mystery, even fear. But Christians are not to be afraid. Coming to God's mountain with Jesus, "the mediator of a new covenant," is a happy, exuberant experience.</p> <p>The parable in today's Gospel concerns the danger of pride and the necessity of humility. The banquet setting, often used by Jesus, is a symbol of heaven's abundance and of the fulfillment of God's promise. The parable is not simply good advice on how to avoid embarrassment; it is about salvation.</p>
SAVE THE DATE	<p>October 4, 7:00p.m. in the parish hall to hear Fr. Felix Just, S.J. present "<i>What Is Love Really? — A look at the teaching of the New Testament.</i>"</p>
FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE ASKS FOR YOUR HELP	<p>The purpose of St. Matthew's Faith Formation committee is to "<i>help people grow in faith so they can live more fully the teachings of Jesus Christ.</i>" As a result, a survey will be distributed before and after Mass next weekend, September 7 & 8 and collected on September 15 & 16. Your valuable input will help develop enriching and spiritually relevant programs that truly reflect the needs of our parish. Please plan to take a few moments to share your thoughts and ideas. The Faith Formation committee looks forward to your responses.</p>
NEWS RELEASE FROM USCCB — TARGETING OF CHUCHES AND CHRISTIANS UNACCEPTABLE	<p>WASHINGTON—The United States should work with the international community to support Egyptians in ending violence, restoring the rule of law and building an inclusive democracy in their country, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. In an August 23 letter to Secretary of State John Kerry, Bishop Richard E. Pates of Des Moines, Iowa, urged a path of dialogue and reconciliation that promotes peace, human rights and religious freedom in Egypt. "Amidst the tragedy of violence and bloodshed in Egypt, our Conference has a special concern for the Christian community," wrote Bishop Pates. "Extremists have scapegoated Christians, blaming them for the current state of affairs, and viciously attacked Christian churches, institutions and communities, destroying property and terrorizing people. The destruction of Christian churches and the targeting of Christians are unacceptable." Bishop Pates said that the bishops of the United States join Pope Francis in praying for "all the victims and their families, the injured and all those who are suffering." He echoed the words of the Coptic Catholic patriarch of Alexandria, who commended the Muslims in Egypt who stood with Christians and defended their churches and institutions. Bishop Pates also expressed concern for Egypt's poor and refugees, who are particularly vulnerable in a time of upheaval. "We urge the United States to preserve, and even increase, humanitarian and economic assistance," Bishop Pates wrote. "Poor and vulnerable Egyptians should not pay the price of the political turmoil and violence gripping their nation."</p> <p>In an August 23 memo to all U.S. bishops, Bishop Pates and Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, Arizona, chairman of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), said that CRS is working with the Church in Egypt to help those most affected by the violence and unrest. CRS is currently helping to rehabilitate church schools that have been burned and looted. Their ongoing work includes: educating refugee children; aiding young women vulnerable to sex trafficking; helping people find work during the recent years of turmoil and economic uncertainty; and fostering dialogue and acceptance among religions. Last year CRS began a program with the Coptic Catholic Church that has brought together thousands of Christians and Muslims.</p>
REFLECTIONS	<p>THE 23RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b Second Reading: Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Gospel: Luke 14:25-33</p> <p>Jesus calls us to take up the cross and renounce our possessions. <i>Luke 14:25-33</i></p> <p>In what ways have I carried Jesus' cross?</p>