

St. Felicitas Catholic Church



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”
- Mt 21:32

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Mass Schedule

Chương Trình Thánh Lễ / Horario para Misas

Sunday / Chúa Nhật / Domingo

7:30 am - 9:00 am - 10:30 am (English)
12:30 pm (Spanish) 4:30 pm (Vietnamese)

Saturday / Thứ Bảy / Sábado

7:00 am - 4:00 pm (Vigil)

Daily / Ngày thường / Diariamente

(Monday to Friday) 7:00 am & 8:15 am

Parish Office Hours/Giờ làm việc VPGX / Horario de Oficinas

Monday / Thứ Hai / Lunes to 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Friday / Thứ Sáu / Viernes

Sacraments / Các Bí Tích / Sacramentos

Reconciliation / Giải Tội / Reconciliación

Monday to Friday - 7:30 am to 8:00 am
Saturday, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Marriage / Hôn Phối / Matrimonio

Arrangements to be made 6 months prior to the wedding.

Baptism : If you are planning to have your child baptized, parents must be registered members of the parish for at least six months. For more information call the parish office at (510) 351-5244.

We have Baptisms in English on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm and Baptism classes for parents and godparents will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm - St. Mary's Center.

Parish Staff / Nhân viên của Giáo xứ /

Personal de la Parroquia

Rev. Peter D. Ngo, *Pastor* 347-1286

Fr. Bento Tamang - *In Residence*

Deacon Timothy Myers, RCIA, timothykentmyers@gmail.com

Mercey Zamora, 347-1293

Pastoral Associate, Spanish Ministry

Sr. Mary Hoang Phan, LHC 347-1283

Pastoral Care

Sharon Clancey, *Office Secretary* 351-5244

Mildred de Sousa, *Bookkeeper/Bulletin* 351-5244

Parish School

Sr. Faustina Pham, *Principal* 357-2530

1650 Manor Blvd. Fax: 357-5358

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

Theresa Legaspi : saintfelicitascyo@gmail.com

Religious Education Office

Sandi Walton, *Director of Religious Education* 347-1282

stfelicitasccd@comcast.net

Geri Lara, *Youth Services* 326-5693

stfelicitasconfirmation@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul 706-1972

Convent 351-5577

The Chapel at the St. Joseph's Center (the Parish Office) is open for worship. We encourage all our parishioners to spend time with our Blessed Lord.

1662 Manor Blvd. San Leandro, CA 94579

Email: stfelicitaschurch@comcast.net
www.stfelicitassl.org

Telephone Number (510) 351-5244
Fax (510) 351-5730



Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time-October 1, 2023
Respect Life Sunday

Today's Readings : Ezekiel 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a); Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Matthew 21:28-32

Reflection : The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will. Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent - tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

Readings for the week of October 1, 2023

- Monday: Zechariah 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23; Matthew 18:1-5, 10
- Tuesday: Zechariah 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7; Luke 9:51-56
- Wednesday: Nehemiah 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Luke 9:57-62
- Thursday: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Luke 10:1-12
- Friday: Baruch 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Luke 10:13-16
- Saturday: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-35, 36-37; Luke 10:17-24

October - Month of the Holy Rosary

The feast of **Our Lady of the Rosary is Saturday, October 7th.** It was instituted to honor Mary for the Christian victory over the Turks at Lepanto **on October 7, 1571.** Pope St. Pius V and all Christians had prayed the Rosary for victory. The Rosary, or the Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is one of the best prayers to Mary, the Mother of God. This feast was instituted by Pope St. Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory over the Turks at the battle of Lepanto on this day in the year 1570, a favor due to the recitation of the Rosary. The Feast is in reality a great festival of thanksgiving for the signal and countless benefits bestowed on Christendom through the Rosary of our blessed Queen.



Pope Benedict XVI invited all families to pray the rosary for the intentions of the Pope, the mission of the Church and peace. "It is as if every year Our Lady invites us to rediscover the beauty of this prayer, so simple and profound." The rosary, a "contemplative and Christocentric prayer, inseparable from the meditation of Sacred Scripture," is " the prayer of the Christian who advances in the pilgrimage of faith, in the following of Jesus, preceded by Mary," said the Pontiff.

In modern times successive popes have urged the faithful to pray the rosary. It is a form of contemplative prayer, mental and vocal prayer, which brings down God's blessing on the Church. It is a biblically inspired prayer which is centered on meditation on the salvific mysteries of Christ in union with Mary, who was so closely associated with her Son in his redeeming activity.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Offering for September 24th :

Sunday Collection : \$ 7,227.00

Solar Project: \$ 4,002.00

Faith Direct for September \$ 5,339.36

Total Solar Project Collection - \$73,952.00

Second Collection this Sunday - Maintenance

Second Collection next Sunday - Catholic Voice

Thank you for your continued generosity.

SAINT FELICITAS MINISTRY FAIR "SERVE ONE ANOTHER"



Please join us for our Ministry Fair hosted by the Parish Council this Sunday, October 1st from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm in the Gym. Everyone is invited to stop by and sign up to "serve one another". Learn more about the various ministries in our Parish and meet other members who share similar interests.



We will also have free pancake and sausage breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus from 8:30 am to 12 noon. No reservations required. Please join us!!!

Today is Respect Life Sunday Prayer for Respect of Life

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation.

Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death.

Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life.

Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life.

To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

First Friday is October 6th

Our First Friday Adoration is this Friday in the Church. It begins after the 8:15 am Mass until 12:00 noon. Join us for Holy Hour and Benediction.

Come any time during the adoration hours to spend some quiet, prayerful time with Jesus.

PARISH MINISTRIES & SCHEDULES

Adult Confirmation

Classes every Saturday, at 9:00 a.m. at the St. Mary's Center. For more information contact Maria Lara at (510) 877-2888 or email her at maripazlara2211@gmail.com

Faith Formation

English: Director of Religious Education - Sandi Walton
All Classes now in person. For information call (510) 347 1282

Spanish: Director, Mercey Zamora, Pastoral Associate,
For more information contact Ms. Zamora (510) 347-1293

Vietnamese: Sr. Mariann Le

Classes: Sunday 1:00pm, Vietnamese Language
3:00pm, Catechism

RCIA-the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Meetings held in person at the St. Joseph's Center at 6:30 pm -
Contact Deacon Timothy Myers

Youth Ministry

Youth Confirmation - Contact Geri Lara

Classes now in person on the following days :

1st year Sunday at 3:30 pm : 2nd year Sunday at 5:30 pm

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Every Wednesday morning after 7 am Mass

Rosary Devotion - Daily after the 7:00 am morning Mass

Catholic Daughters

Catholic Daughters invite you to meet on the 3rd Monday of each month in St. Mary's Center at 6:30 pm. Contact Lorine Bakowsky at (510)461-7317 or email cdacourtmgw@gmail.com for more information.

Legion of Mary : Meets every Wednesday at 5:00 pm in the St. Mary's Center. Contact Ms. L. Legaspi at (510) 909-4474 for more information

St. Vincent de Paul : Meetings: 2nd & 4th Monday-6:30 pm

Knights of Columbus - invites Catholic men to join. If interested please contact Carl Webb at (510) 8135957 or email Carlwebb3@gmail.com

Phone Nos./Emails - refer to 1st page of the Bulletin.



Pray for those who serve in the armed forces

Lorenzo Blandon Zamora -Navy

Shianne Solomon - Sgt. US Army

Jamie Plachenno - Sgt. Military

Manuel Gonzalez- Cmdr. U.S.Navy

Jericho Meno (Navy)

Thomas Meno (Army)

Troy Meno (Air Force)

Brittany Manglona (Air Force)

Ryland Toves - Navy

Joey Mesa - Navy

Julian Chan - Navy

If you know anyone who is serving please call the office

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for October

For the Synod - We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

	Mass Intentions		Week of September 30, 2023
	Ý Lễ trong tuần		
Intensions' para las Misas			

Sat.	09/30	4:00 pm	Maria Dien †
Sun.	10/01	7:30 am	Victor Hernandez Jr. †
		9:00 am	Rufino Sarmiento †
		10:30am	Parishioners
		12:30 pm	Herminia & Celso Santiago †
		4:30 pm	Vietnamese Mass
Mon.	10/02	7:00 am	Mary Tran Hinh †
		8:15 am	Paul David Prado †
Tue.	10/03	7:00 am	Therese Schexnayder †
		8:15 am	Deacon Jose Prado †
Wed.	10/04	7:00 am	Estella A Sacramento †
		8:15 am	All Souls †
Thur.	10/05	7:00 am	Basilio Sabisor †
		8:15 am	Fidel A. Palacio †
Fri.	10/06	7:00 am	Mona F. Falleiro (L-103rd B)
		8:15 am	Katie Clancey-Zazueta (L-B)
Sat.	10/07	7:00 am	Phero Tien & Maria Ngu †
		4:00 pm	Celia Aguayo †
Sun.	10/08	7:30 am	Parishioners
		9:00 am	Gary Cordano †
		10:30am	Rosa Maria Bargas (L-T)
		12:30 pm	Spanish Mass

L-Living †-Deceased A-Anniversary B-Birthday T-Thanksgiving H-Healing



**VOICE
COLLECTION
NEXT SUNDAY**

Next weekend is the annual second collection for **The Catholic Voice**. Your donation helps your parish offset its payments for this important communications ministry. **The Voice** and its other operations - **El Heraldo Católico**, websites and social medial - are the only regular source of Catholic news and information for all parishioners in the diocese. Please be generous in your support.



**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Wednesday - October 4th**

On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi there will be a special blessing of animals on Wednesday, October 4th at 2:45 pm in the St. Felicitas big parking lot.

We invite all parishioners to bring their pets for this special blessing.



**Healing Mass with Anointing
of the Sick
Saturday, October 7th, at 10:00am**

The Church encourages anyone who is ill, elderly, physically or mentally challenged, anyone preparing for or anticipating surgery, struggling with or recovering from addiction...to **COME to MASS & receive the Anointing of the sick**. The Anointing Mass is not only for the elderly or sick but for all of us, so that we too receive HEALING spiritually or physically from our Merciful God. It is through this sacrament that we gain strength to bear our suffering with patience and dignity.

There will be a reception after the Mass in the vestibule of the Church.

Our Lady of Fatima Devotion

On Friday, October 13th we will conclude our monthly devotion to **Our Lady of Fatima** at 7:00 pm in the church. We will have the procession with recitation of the Holy Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Holy Mass.



Please join us as we pray the rosary as a community, process around the church and enjoy a reception in the vestibule of our Church.

Pray for our sick relatives and friends

<i>Denise Abero</i>	<i>Genesis Miranda</i>	<i>Javier Martin Muñoz</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Aguilar</i>	<i>Kent Myers</i>	<i>Maria Guadalupe Solis</i>
<i>Barbara O'Connor</i>	<i>Corazon Mislang</i>	<i>Ruben Raygoza</i>
<i>Sal Costilla</i>	<i>Yolanda Pasadas</i>	<i>Ernesto Tiglaio</i>
<i>David Boles</i>	<i>Tony Silveira</i>	<i>Joseph Sanchez</i>
<i>Evelyn Becker</i>	<i>Mary Torres</i>	<i>Violet Chancey</i>
<i>Barbara Becker</i>	<i>Felisimia Toste</i>	<i>Martin Indalecio</i>
<i>Alfonso Chavez</i>	<i>Geoffrey Salvatierra</i>	<i>Julie Chin</i>
<i>Arnie Cunha</i>	<i>Luningning Hobbs</i>	<i>Donald Solomon</i>
<i>Diane Delucchi</i>	<i>Virgie Mercado</i>	<i>Irene Goyeneche</i>
<i>Michell Duffey</i>	<i>Saturnina Fuentes</i>	<i>Leonie Solomon</i>
<i>Joycelyn Garner</i>	<i>Reynaldo Corldani</i>	<i>Cindy Vargas</i>
<i>Robin Homen</i>	<i>Zeneyd Cecilia Munoz</i>	<i>Dionision Soriano</i>
<i>Susan Hernandez</i>	<i>Reynal Corldanio</i>	<i>Grace Pehl</i>
<i>William Keany</i>	<i>Bernice Winslow</i>	<i>Beth Stern</i>
<i>Joan Kellogg</i>	<i>Oney Cort Hernandez</i>	<i>Ruben Aguayo</i>
<i>Susan Lara</i>	<i>Laura Aruda</i>	<i>Athena Reed</i>
<i>Maria Leonard</i>	<i>Catalino & Nenita</i>	<i>Lois Belmessieri</i>
<i>Gloria Muskopf</i>	<i>Santos</i>	

Pray for the deceased and her family



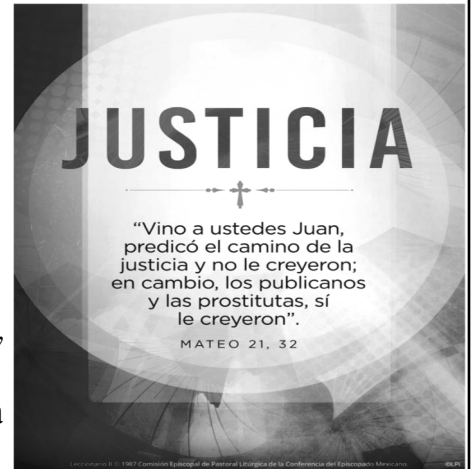
Jiselle P. Castro - September 19th

St. Felicitas Parish -Spanish-Speaking Community

26º Domingo en el Tiempo Ordinario

Nada es más perturbador en la sociedad en que vivimos que ver que las personas dicen una cosa y hacen otra. Algo así, como poner una cara para cada ocasión. En este domingo, estamos llamados a vivir con humildad y coherencia. Para llegar a ser de verdad coherentes existe un mensaje que la Primera Lectura de hoy nos recuerda:

“Cuando el justo se aparta de la justicia y comete el mal y por eso muere, muere por culpa de la injusticia que cometió. Del mismo modo, si el malvado se aparta de la mala vida que llevaba y actúa según el derecho y la justicia, vivirá”. (Ezequiel 18:26-27). **La clave es reconocer el error y cambiar el modo de pensar y obrar para el bien. Para llegar a esta etapa de la vida se requiere mucha humildad.**



Es por eso, que el Señor Jesús, nos narra la parábola de los dos hijos. El que dijo sí y no fue y el que dijo no y se arrepintió y se fue a trabajar en la viña de su padre. ¿A cuál de ellos te pareces? ¿Cómo respondes al llamado de Dios en tú vida, cualquiera que sea tú vocación? San Agustín nos ayuda con la siguiente oración a ser verdaderos discípulos de Jesucristo: *“Te seguimos, Señor Jesús, pero para que te sigamos, llámanos, porque sin ti nadie avanza. Que solo tú eres el Camino, la Verdad, y la Vida. Recíbenos, como un camino acogedor recibe. Aléntanos, como la verdad alienta. Vivifícanos, puesto que tú eres la Vida”.* ¡Creamos en Jesús, como los recaudadores de impuestos y las prostitutas de su tiempo!

©LPi

Domingo: Ez 18, 25-28/Sal 24, 4-5. 6-7. 8-9. (6)/Flp 2, 1-11 o 2, 1-5/Mt 21, 28-32

El Consejo Parroquial está organizando una Feria Ministerial el Domingo 1o. de Octubre, de 8:30 A.M. a 4:00 P. M. Todos están invitados a visitarnos en el gimnasio y a inscribirse en “Nos Servimos unos a otros”. También los Caballeros de Colón tendrán un desayuno de panqueques a esta misma hora.

Apreciada Comunidad,
Nuestra parroquia nuevamente ofrece una bendecida oportunidad para recibir “Unción con los santos oleos”, el Sábado 7 de este mes, a las 10:00 A.M. Aproveche si usted va a ser sometido a una cirugía o simplemente sufre de alguna enfermedad.

Comunidad,
!!! 13 de Octubre !!! 7:00 P. M.
Otra hermosa mensual celebración Mariana. Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento y Bendición. Procesión, Recitación del Rosario y Santa Misa.
De esta manera concluimos nuestra mensual devoción a nuestra amada Virgen de Fátima.

Después, nos reuniremos en el vestíbulo del templo para participar de un
fraternalmente ágape,

PREPARACION PARA CONFIRMACION

**Domingo 8 de Octubre–
Después de misa en Español,
Tendremos la ORIENTACION del
Programa de CONFIRMACION,
para padres de familia.
Lugar? Salón Santa María, situado en
la parte posterior del templo o sea a
un lado del estacionamiento.**

**Primer Día de clases para la
Confirmación será el 20 de Octubre.**

Horario: Viernes 7:00 P.M. a 8:15P.M.

Excepto días festivos o cuando la parroquia tenga celebraciones especiales.

St. Felicitas Parish Vietnamese Community

CHÚA NHẬT 19 THƯỜNG NIÊN

Chúa Nhật: Thánh Lễ lúc: **4:30 chiều**

Thứ Sáu: Châu Thánh Thể lúc: **7:30 tối** và

Thánh Lễ lúc: **8:00 tối**

Văn phòng giáo xứ mở cửa từ thứ 2 đến thứ 6 từ lúc 9 giờ sáng đến 4 giờ chiều.

Châu Thánh Thể từ 9 giờ sáng đến 4 giờ chiều trong Nhà Nguyễn Thánh Giuse (thứ 2 đến thứ 6).

CÁC BÀI ĐỌC TRONG TUẦN

Thứ 2, 2/10: Xh 23:20-23; Mt 18:1-5,10

Thứ 3, 3/10: Dcr 8:20-23; Lc 9:51-56

Thứ 4, 4/10: Nkm 2:1-8; Lc 9:57-62

Thứ 5, 5/10: Nkm 1:1-4,5-6,7-12; Lc 10:1-12

Thứ 6, 6/10: Br 1:15-22; Lc 10:13-16

Thứ 7, 7/10: Br 4:5-12, 27-29; Lc 10:17-24

Chúa Nhật 8/10: Is 5:1-7; Pl 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

DỰ ÁN NĂNG LƯỢNG MẶT TRỜI

Giáo xứ đang trong tiến trình làm dự án Năng Lượng Mặt Trời. Tổng chi phí là **134,560.00 Đô-la**. Xin mọi người ủng hộ và đóng góp theo lòng quảng đại và khả năng của mình để Giáo xứ chúng ta hoàn thành dự án như đã hoạch định.

Xin Thiên Chúa trả công bội hậu cho lòng quảng đại của Quý Vị!

Thông Báo

- Hội đồng Giáo xứ St. Felicitas sẽ tổ chức “Ngày hội Mục vụ” với chủ đề “Phục vụ tha nhân” vào Chúa nhật, ngày **1 tháng 10**, từ **8h30 sáng đến 4h chiều** tại phòng thể thao. Xin kính mời quý ông bà, anh chị ghé thăm cũng như đăng ký để trở thành các thừa tác viên trong các công việc mục vụ của Giáo xứ.

- Thứ 4 ngày **4 tháng 10**, vào lúc **2h45 chiều**, sẽ có chúc lành cho động vật tại bãi đỗ xe của Giáo xứ. Mời quý vị mang thú cưng đến để nhận chúc lành.

- Thứ 7 ngày **7 tháng 10**, Giáo xứ có Thánh lễ Xức Dầu Bệnh Nhân vào lúc **10h sáng**. Xin kính mời quý ông bà và anh chị em, đặc biệt là các bệnh nhân, đến tham dự. Sau Thánh lễ, sẽ có bữa ăn nhẹ tại tiền sảnh nhà thờ.

- Thứ 6 ngày **13 tháng 10**, lúc **7h tối**, Giáo xứ sẽ kết thúc chương trình Tôn vinh Đức Mẹ Fatima mỗi tháng với Lân hạt Mân côi, Rước kiệu, Châu Thánh Thể, và Thánh lễ. Xin kính mời quý ông bà và anh chị em tham dự.

CHÚA NHẬT 26 THƯỜNG NIÊN

Mt 21:28-32

Sám Hối Là Khởi Điểm

Suy niệm:

Nói và làm đó là hai thái độ khác nhau. Có người nói mà không làm. Có người không nói nhưng lại làm. Đó chính là hai thái độ mà Chúa đề cập đến trong bài dụ ngôn hôm nay. Hạng người nói mà không làm đó là những người biệt phái và luật sĩ. Họ tự cho là mình đạo đức, nhưng khi Chúa Giêsu rao giảng, họ không những không tin mà còn phê phán chỉ trích những người tin Chúa, chỉ trích chính Chúa đã đón tiếp người tội lỗi. Hạng người không nói mà làm đó là những người thu thuế và những người tội lỗi. Tuy sống tội lỗi, nhưng khi nghe Chúa rao giảng, họ đã ăn năn sám hối và tin vào Chúa. Qua dụ ngôn này Chúa muốn dạy ta những bài học sau:

- Bài học thứ nhất: Việc làm trọng hơn lời nói. Trong đời sống, chúng ta gặp không ít những người nói hay, nói nhiều, nhưng làm chẳng bao nhiêu. Tục ngữ Việt Nam có câu “Mười voi không được bát nước sáo” là thế. Nhưng trái lại có những người không nói giỏi, có khi không nói gì cả, nhưng lại làm rất nhiều. Nhất thời ta có thể thích những người nói hay. Nhưng sống càng lâu, ta càng mến những người nói ít làm nhiều. Trong đời sống thiêng liêng cũng thế. Chúa yêu chuộng những người làm việc hơn là những người chỉ biết nói suông. Có lần Chúa đã vạch rõ những giả dối này: “Không phải những ai nói rằng: Lạy Chúa, lạy Chúa mà được vào Nước Trời, nhưng là những kẻ làm theo ý Cha Ta trên trời” (Mt 7,21). Tình yêu cũng phải có việc làm. Việc làm minh chứng tình yêu đích thực. Tin yêu Chúa phải được biểu lộ bằng việc làm.

- Bài học thứ hai: Sám hối là việc cần thiết của mọi người. Đã là người ai cũng có sai lầm. Chúa không đòi ta phải hoàn hảo không bao giờ sai lỗi. Nhưng Chúa đòi ta mỗi khi sai lỗi phải biết sám hối ăn năn. Sám hối thật cần thiết vì có sám hối ta mới được Chúa thứ tha. Ta hãy xem Chúa đã tha thứ cho người trộm lành, để thấy Chúa nhân từ thương xót biết bao. Nhưng Chúa lại chê ghét những tâm hồn kiêu căng cứng cỏi không chịu ăn năn sám hối. Trong Phúc Âm ta thấy Chúa chỉ mắng nhiếc những người tự xưng mình đạo đức nên kiêu căng khinh miệt người khác và không nghe lời Chúa. Nhưng Chúa luôn nhân từ, khoan dung, tha thứ cho những tội lỗi thật lòng ăn năn. Sám hối thật cần thiết vì tất cả chúng ta ai cũng có lầm lỗi trước mặt Chúa, cần được Chúa khoan hồng thứ tha. Sám hối thật cần thiết vì đó là khởi điểm để nên tốt, nên thánh thiện. Có sám hối ta mới biết từ bỏ nếp sống cũ. Có sám hối ta mới bắt đầu một nếp sống mới đẹp lòng Chúa.

Như thế, ta đừng chỉ nói suông mà không làm, nhưng hãy biết thực hành điều Chúa dạy. Ta đừng tự hào vì mình tốt lành mà phê bình chỉ trích người khác. Hãy tự xét mình để thấy mình tội lỗi. Và khi biết mình tội lỗi, hãy ăn năn sám hối ngay. Có sám hối ta sẽ được Chúa tha thứ. Có sám hối sẽ được anh chị em yêu thương. Nhất là có sám hối ta mới khởi sự tiến lên trên con đường thánh thiện.

ĐTGM. Giuse Ngô Quang Kiệt

October - RESPECT LIFE MONTH

**Every October, we consider more deeply why every human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death.
This year we focus on our call to Radical Solidarity.**

*Each October the Church in the United States celebrates **Respect Life Month** and the first Sunday of October is observed as **Respect Life Sunday**. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. This month, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life. Since 1973, the month of October has been set aside by the U.S. bishops as a time to focus on protecting God's precious gift of human life. A great many prayers, sacrifices, and good works are still desperately needed to transform a culture of death into a culture of life. The most immediate way to save babies and mothers from abortion is to thoroughly surround mothers in need with life-giving support and personal accompaniment.*

This is Radical Solidarity!!

St. John Paul II first defined "radical solidarity" in this way: "In firmly rejecting 'pro-choice' it is necessary to become courageously 'pro-woman,' promoting a choice that is truly in favor of women. ... The only honest stance, in these cases, is that of radical solidarity with the woman. Being in radical solidarity with women who are pregnant or raising children in difficult circumstances means putting our love for them into action and putting their needs before our own. Pope Francis reminds us that solidarity "refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It presumes the creation of a new mindset," a transformation within our own hearts. This new mindset requires that we come alongside vulnerable mothers in profound friendship, compassion, and support for both them and their preborn children. It means addressing the fundamental challenges that lead an expectant mother to believe she is unable to welcome the child God has entrusted to her. This includes collective efforts within our dioceses, parishes, schools and local communities. It all the more so requires our individual, personal commitment to helping mothers in our own communities secure material, emotional, and spiritual support for embracing the gift of life. Radical solidarity means moving beyond the status quo and out of our comfort zones.

Prayer for Radical Solidarity

O Blessed Mother, at the angel's word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own.

By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations.

Ask your Son to give us unfailing determination to witness to the profound dignity of every person, at every stage and in every circumstance.

In that first Eucharistic procession, you carried Jesus to Elizabeth in her time of need. Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.

*May our support help them to find hope and strength in the Lord.
Amen.*

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radical
solidarity

to be courageously pro-woman,
promoting a choice that truly protects,
accompanies, and supports
women and their children



RESPECT LIFE

