Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 28 2020

We know that Christ,
raised from the dead,
dies no more;
death no longer
has power over him.

Romans 6:9

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Saint Junípero Serra (1713-1784)

July 1

No one who has stood before the quiet majesty of Mission San Juan Capistrano, or the altogether different but no less lovely Mission Dolores in San Francisco, or any of the missions from San Diego to Sonoma can fail to bless the Franciscan padre who, while not founder of each, was inspiration for them all, Saint Junípero Serra. Abandoning the comfortable academic life to which his doctorate in theology entitled him, Serra journeyed to the New World where his tireless traveling, dramatic preaching, and penitential austerity converted thousands of native peoples. Saving souls and celebrating the sacraments were Padre Serra's primary mission but not his only one. Education in letters and crafts, trades and agriculture transformed the people, while roads and irrigation systems transfigured the landscape. His more than thirty years of ministry were not free from conflict with authorities or without controversy in the retrospectively critical eye of history. But when John Paul II beatified him in 1988, he praised Padre Serra for assisting his converts to use their new faith to advance their true human development.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Freedom

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves and under a just God cannot long retain it.

—Abraham Lincoln

Christian Hospitality

Day in and day out, we are required to make judgment calls informed by tough, durable, serviceable Christian love. We do what we can do, and God takes notice. God is in charge of rewards, and a glass of water will do when that is what we have to offer with a glad and open heart. Paul gives us a clear theology for the missionary work we do whenever anybody is close at hand. He reminds us that our work, our ministry, is carried on in concert with Christ. We have been baptized into his death and life. In any given moment both life and death are there, a kind of play of shadow and light. Sometimes it's difficult to tell where shadow leaves off and light begins. God will take care of that, too.

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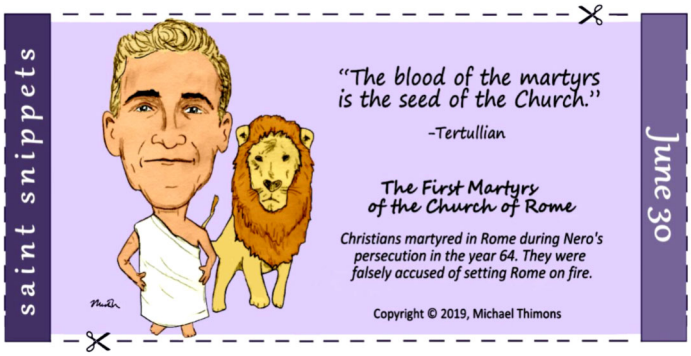
Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Ps 5:4b-8; Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday:	Am 5:14-15, 21-24; Ps 50:7-13, 16bc-17; Mt 8:28-34
Thursday:	Am 7:10-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 9:1-8
Friday:	Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 20:24-29
Saturday:	Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 9:14-17 or, for Independence Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Country,"nos. 882- 886, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891
Sunday:	Zec 9:9-10; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles
Tuesday:	The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
Wednesday:	St. Junípero Serra; Canada Day
Friday:	St. Thomas; First Friday
Saturday:	Independence Day; First Saturday; Blessed Virgin Mary



Today's Readings

First Reading — Elisha promises a baby son to the hospitable woman (2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — We shall live in newness of life as Christ was raised from the dead (Romans 6:3-4, 8-11).

Gospel — Whoever gives but a cup of cold water to another will surely be rewarded (Matthew 10:37-42).

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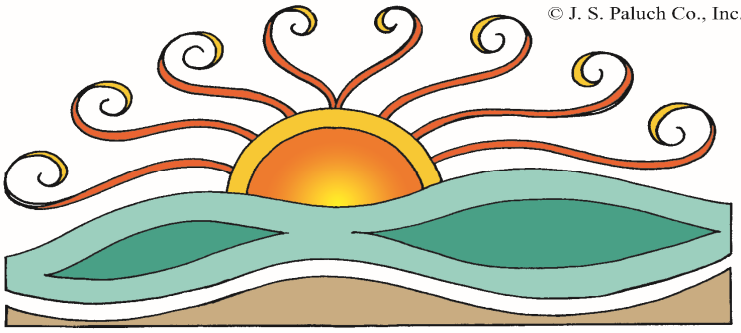

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 28, 2020

Think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

— Romans 6:11

Treasures From Our Tradition

Confirmation is complicated, at least in its history. It arose in response to real problems deeply felt, not the least of which was the desire of the bishop to minister to all who were baptized. But it also has to do with the early crisis of how to deal with persons baptized by congregations that had broken bonds with the greater church: heretics. People reasoned that no matter how wrong-headed the minister might be, Christ would always work in the waters of baptism. No matter what, God would sweep aside all human obstacles to claim the new life in the water. They were not so sure about the ability of someone who had broken with the church to confer the Spirit.

By the fifth century, already-baptized persons coming into the church were anointed with chrism but not rebaptized. This anointing with myron or chrism was seen as an act of reconciliation by the church, and a seal upon the commitments vowed by the newcomer. Today, we preserve this ancient practice by never "rebaptizing" Christians who have been baptized in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We affirm the candidates' baptismal dignity, and we celebrate confirmation at their first reception of the Eucharist.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Our readings today could be seen as a simple recipe for right living. In the Hebrew Bible, hospitality is regarded as one of the highest virtues. Conditions were harsh, and when people received guests or strangers, they washed their feet, provided a meal, and offered shelter if they could. In Second Kings, a woman's generosity is rewarded with the prospect of a child. In Romans we are called to recognize our baptism in Christ. We are called to be "dead to sin, and living in Christ Jesus." In the Gospel passage from Saint Luke, Jesus bids us to take up our cross, and to receive others as if we were receiving Christ. Put them together, and all of them are a call to see the holy, to see God in others, and to live our lives in Christ.

The Message Seems Harsh

On first reading, our Gospel seems very harsh. The idea of taking up our cross can be fearful or have negative connotations, as if it were something only a few can do. It is also confusing. Scripture tells us to honor our father and mother, and yet here are told we must love Jesus more than our parents or children, or we are not worthy. The message that Jesus intends to convey, however, is not to give up these people, but rather to choose Christ first. Sometimes this means being countercultural. For a family, how do we make choices to keep Christ in the picture? It could mean that when you make plans to take the family to that water park for the weekend, you should also locate the local church so you can attend Mass. Or maybe it means not placing your child on the soccer team with 10 a.m. Sunday games, or rescheduling another part of your life to keep Christ foremost. Perhaps it is something as simple as locking yourself in the bathroom for five minutes so that you have time to pray. Maybe it means listening to an audiobook of scriptures on your commute to work. All we do is for naught if we do not include Christ.

There Are Many "Cups Of Water"

Don't get caught up in taking this scripture literally. Yes, you may give someone a glass of water, invite the staff of your parish for a meal, hand an apple or a dollar bill to a homeless person, or take a shift in a shelter. But sometimes, what is being asked for is simply a kind word or a helping hand. Seeing an elderly person having trouble and helping them through the crosswalk, calming someone's toddler in the grocery store while they pay their bill. Offer a smile, a compliment, or a word of encouragement. Say hello to a stranger. We do not know who is parched with loneliness or feeling overwhelmed. Look for the Christ in others and respond with simple kindness and hospitality.

Today's Readings: 2 Kgs 4:8–11, 14–16a; Ps 89:2–3, 16–17, 18–19; Rom 6:3–4, 8–11; Mt 10:37–42

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Sunday Readings
June 28, 2020
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1
2 Kgs 4:8–11, 14–16a

One day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a
woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her.
Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop
there to dine. So she said to her husband, “I know
that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us
often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and
furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp,
so that when he comes to us he can stay there.”
Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room
overnight.
Later Elisha asked, “Can something be done for
her?” His servant Gehazi answered, “Yes! She has
no son, and her husband is getting on in years.”
Elisha said, “Call her.” When the woman had been
called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, “This
time next year you will be fondling a baby son.”

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 82:2–3, 16–17, 18–19

R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
The promises of the LORD I will sing forever,
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim
your faithfulness.
For you have said, “My kindness is established
forever;”
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
Blessed the people who know the joyful shout;
in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they
walk.
At your name they rejoice all the day,
and through your justice they are exalted.
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
You are the splendor of their strength,
and by your favor our horn is exalted.
For to the LORD belongs our shield,
and the Holy One of Israel, our king.
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading 2
Rom 6:3–4, 8–11

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who
were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into
his death? We were indeed buried with him through
baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised
from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too
might live in newness of life.
If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we
shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised
from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has
power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once
and for all; as to his life, he lives for God.
Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as
dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel
Mt 10:37–42

Jesus said to his apostles: “Whoever loves father or
mother more than me is not worthy of me, and
whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not
worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his
cross
and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever
finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life
for my sake will find it.
“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever
receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever
receives a prophet because he is a prophet will
receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever receives a
righteous man because he is a righteous man will
receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever
gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little
ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—
amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his
reward.”

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Prayer of the Faithful

Let us come before our God with our prayers and petitions, for God will surely hear and answer us.

For Pope Francis, as he leads our Church to focus ever more on Christ in our service to those On the peripheries of our world, let us pray to the Lord.

For our national leaders, that they might recall and govern by the principles upon which our nation was founded two hundred forty-four years ago, let us pray to the Lord.

For freedom from violence on our streets, in our public gathering places, and in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

For scientists and researchers as they work to discover treatments and vaccines for this coronavirus, let us pray to the Lord.

For respect and welcome for the immigrants, refugees, and strangers among us and at our borders, particularly during this pandemic, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from COVID-19, and for all who have died, especially N., N., and N., let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

**Gracious God,
you have given us abundant life.
Help us to respond with lives of gratitude
and humble service,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

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Letters from Heaven

Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

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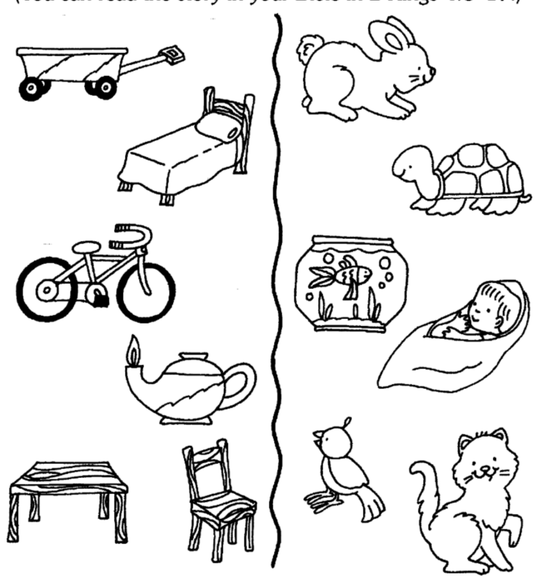
Jesus said, "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me ...

T	H	T	O
Y	R	N	W
O	S	O	E
I	F	M	■

I_ ___ ______ __ __."

Answer: is not worthy of me

A woman from Shunem gave Elisha
a place to eat and sleep when he was in town.
She told her husband to set aside a room on the roof for this friend.
That way he could stay with them any time.
The woman wanted to put four things in the room.
Circle them on the left.
Later Elisha promised that in a year she would have something.
Circle that on the right.
(You can read the story in your Bible in 2 Kings 4:8–17.)



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July 2, 2017
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

When we do kind and good things for others we are pleasing Jesus.
We need to welcome and help everyone as if they were Jesus himself.
The scrambled words below are deeds we can do for others.
Look at the picture clues for help.

ohsp

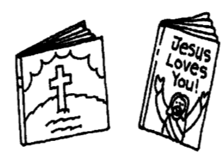
_ _ _ _

lacne

_ _ _ _ _

drae

_ _ _ _



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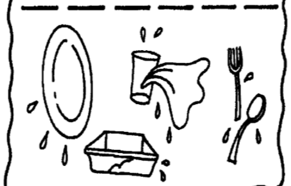

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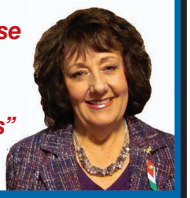

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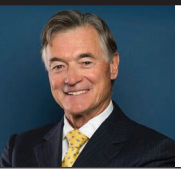
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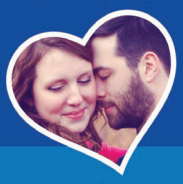
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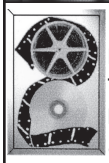
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