

# Catholic Community in Central Racine

October 15, 2023

## 28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Come to the feast."  
- Mt 22:4bc



## 28° DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

"'Vengan a la boda'."  
- Mt 22, 4

### Pastoral Team/Equipo Pastoral

**Very Rev. Juan Manuel Camacho**, Pastor/Párroco  
frjuan@cccracine.org

**Rev. José Mario Nieto**, Associate Pastor/Vicario  
frjose@cccracine.org

### Deacons/Diáconos

Dan Burmeister

Roberto Fuentes

Julio López

Leonides Rocha

Raúl Rueda

Howard Wirtz

Director of Christian Formation Program/

Directora del Programa de Formación Cristiana:

Gabriela Cabrera 262-898-5653 John Clarke 262-898-7008

Coordinator of Youth Ministry/

Coordinador Pastoral Juvenil

Eloy Contreras 262-898-5666

### St. Edward

#### Director of Administrative Services

Karen Crane  
Karen@cccracine.org

#### Bookkeeper

Erica Correa  
erica@cccracine.org

#### Music Director

Jesús Cabrera

#### Child Development Center Director

Lorie Czerwinski  
262-636-8051

#### Maintenance

Tim Koeller

#### Trustees

Michael Marz Barb Pippenger

#### Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Barb Hantschel

#### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am-12:00 pm  
Closed Fridays

1401 Grove Ave. Racine, WI 53405

262-636-8040

Email: parish@saintedwardracine.org

Website: www.saintedwardracine.org

#### Masses

Saturday	4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am
Tuesday	9:00 am
Wednesday	9:00 am

### St. Patrick/San Patricio

#### Staff/Personal

Amalia Pardo, Office Manager  
Tricia Pardo, Office Assistant  
Adolfo Gioannini, Facilities Coordinator  
262-898-5651

#### Business Coordinator/Coordinador Administrativo

Geoffrey Greiveldinger 262-488-5900

#### Trustees:

Wayne Marik Maureen Martinez

#### Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson/

Presidenta del Consejo Pastoral

Carol Rawlinko

#### Office Hours/Horario de oficina:

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-Noon; 1:30-4:30 pm  
lunes-viernes de 8:30am-12:00; 1:30-4:30pm  
Closed/cerrada 12:00-1:30pm

1100 Erie St. Racine, WI 53402

262-632-8808

Email: church@stpatrickracine.com

Website: www.stpatrickracine.com

Facebook: "Saint Patrick Racine"

#### Masses/Misas

Saturday /Sábado	4:00 pm	English
Sunday /Domingo	9:00 am	English
Sunday /Domingo	10:30 am	Español
Sunday /Domingo	12:00 pm	Español
Sunday /Domingo	6:00 pm	Español
Wednesday/Miércoles	6:00 pm	Español

### St. Richard

#### Director of Administrative Services

Karen Crane  
info@strichard-parish.org

#### Office & Communications Assistant

Ellena Mandujano  
info@strichard-parish.org

#### Trustees

Kathy Garski Ed Morelli

#### Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

Mark Panthofer

#### Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday  
Closed Fridays

1509 Grand Ave., Racine, WI 53403

262-637-8374

E-mail: info@strichard-parish.org

Website: www.strichard-parish.org

Facebook: "St. Richard Parish - Racine"

#### Masses

Saturday	4:00 pm
Sunday	9:00 am
Sunday	11:30 am
Thursday	9:00 am
Friday	9:00 am

**Livestream Masses:**

**Sunday:** 9:00 am English 10:30 am Español

**Wednesday-Friday:** 9:00 am English



## St. Edward Parish

### **This Week in our Parish:**

**Sunday, October 15,**  
**9:00 am** Installation Mass W/ Pancake Breakfast  
**Monday, October 16,**  
**6:30 pm** Cookie Baking Day! (Schaefer Hall)  
**Tuesday, October 17,**  
**9:00 am** Mass & Livestream  
**Wednesday, October 18,**  
**9:00 am** Mass & Livestream (Rosary)  
**1:00 pm** Bible Study (Conf. Room)  
**Saturday, October 21,**  
**3:00 to 3:45 pm** Confessions  
**4:00 pm** Mass  
**Sunday, October 22,**  
**9:00 am** Mass  
**\*\* Scrip Orders can be turned in Nov. 4 & 5 \*\***

### **Remembrance Mass**

Will be held on Saturday, October 28 at the 4:00 pm Mass. All family and friends are invited to attend this Mass. Members who have passed away (or had services held) between October 23, 2022 and October 21, 2023 will be honored. In addition, because of the pandemic, parish members who were not previously honored can also be included in this service. Because some services were not held, or postponed, or held at other locations, it has been difficult to discern these names. Please notify the parish office at 636-8040 or contact Marla Mich at 262-497-8706 (text, call or voice message) so that these individuals can be honored.

The following will be honored: James Ralph Brehm, Eleanor Burge, Margaret Mary Caretta, Marion Chars, Richard Imhoff, Mary Jane Madisen, Mary Maldonado, Marion Mueller, William (Bill) Franklin Olive, Dennis Rybarik, Herbert Spalla, and Jane Townsend.

### **A St. Joseph, Holy Hour for Life**

Tuesday October 24 at 6:30 PM St. Edward Parish and the Knights of Columbus are joining together for a Holy Hour for Life, under the patronage of St. Joseph. The saint will be present to us in a special way through a traveling icon of him, courtesy of KC. He was courageous in his protection of an unwed mother (Mary) and her unborn child (Jesus). May we all have his faith and bravery.

### **Saint Vincent de Paul**

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus say, 'Many are invited, but few are chosen.' To give thanks for all that God has given to you place your donation in the SVDP envelope or the red food collection box in back of church and consider answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Leave your name at the Parish Office and we'll get back to you.

Next week we'll begin our Drive for Thanksgiving Baskets. Names for baskets, with address and phone number are due to the Parish Office by Nov. 13. More information next week

### **Mass Intentions:**

**Sunday, October 15, Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**9:00 am:** Living & Deceased Members of St. Edward's Faith Community  
**Tuesday, October 17, St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr**  
**9:00 am:** Special Intentions  
**Wednesday, October 18, Weekday**  
**9:00 am:** † Jean Logic  
**Saturday, October 21, Weekday**  
**4:00 pm:** Catholic Community in Central Racine  
**Sunday, October , Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**9:00 am:** † Eva Spalla

### **Weekly Collections for October 7 & 8:**

Weekly Envelopes.....	\$3,467.00
Offertory.....	\$324.34
Building Fund.....	\$74.00
Votive Candles.....	\$19.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$3,884.34</b>

### **Fr. Juan's Installation**

Join us at 9:00 Mass this Sunday, Oct. 15, for the formal installation of Fr. Juan Manuel as Pastor of St. Ed's. After mass, come on down to Schaefer Hall for the pancake breakfast and reception.

**We would like to welcome  
 Tony & Denise Rossi as official members  
 of Saint Edward's Parish.**

### **Knights of Columbus**

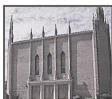
The annual KC LifeSavers for Life Drive will be held at St. Ed's on Oct. 21-22. All donations, as usual, go to support local ultrasound ministries, pregnancy support centers and KC ASAP programs (assistance to mothers and children in need after pregnancy). Look for the Knights with the yellow and blue aprons and canisters.

### **Ministry Volunteers**

October-January 7 schedules have been sent out by USPS and email. Hard copies are available in back of church. If you'd like to join us, leave you name at the Parish Office and we'll get back to you.

### **WOMEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING & SOCIAL**

All women of St. Ed's are invited to a Breakfast Meeting and Social on Oct 29th at 10:00 a.m. in Schaefer Hall. We will be discussing Past and Future Activities.. Please join us



## St. Patrick Parish/Parroquia de San Patricio

### Mass Intentions/Intenciones de Misa

10/14	4:00 pm	† Megan Schaefer
10/15	9:00 am	† Ana Lilia Guerrero
	10:30 am	† Ana Lilia Guerrero
	12:00 pm	† Ana Lilia Guerrero
	6:00 pm	Por la Comunidad/Our Parishioners
10/21	4:00 pm	Por la Comunidad/Our Parishioners
10/22	9:00 am	Por la Comunidad/Our Parishioners
	10:30 am	Por la Comunidad/Our Parishioners
	12:00 pm	† Michelle Romero
	6:00 pm	Por la Comunidad/Our Parishioners

### Pensamientos del Padre Juan . . .

Gracia y Paz a ustedes, mis hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

Esta semana les escribo desde Houston, Texas. Vine aquí para participar en la Conferencia Nacional del Ministerio Hispano. La Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos aprobó un Plan de Ministerio Hispano de 10 años para la Iglesia Católica de Estados Unidos. Nuestro objetivo durante estos cuatro días llenos de reuniones es discutir el plan y encontrar formas de aplicarlo en nuestras diócesis. Un dato que nos dicen muchas encuestas es que el crecimiento de la Iglesia católica en Estados Unidos está liderado por los católicos hispanos. En nuestra propia realidad de Racine, de las 11 parroquias de la ciudad, San Patricio, que alberga a la Comunidad Católica Hispana, es la parroquia que cada año celebra más bautismos, comuniones, confirmaciones y bodas. Esta es una realidad que los obispos de los Estados Unidos quieren reconocer y trabajar por una iglesia de inclusión e integración de aquellos de diversos orígenes culturales.

También me entristece ver lo que está sucediendo en Tierra Santa. Este no es un conflicto que esté en el otro lado del mundo. Algunos peregrinos de nuestra propia archidiócesis se encontraban en Tierra Santa cuando comenzó el conflicto. Sus vidas estaban en riesgo y gracias a Dios se encuentran bien y, en su camino, en casa. Un nutrido grupo de católicos de la ciudad de Racine planeaba visitar Tierra Santa y su viaje fue cancelado. Este conflicto a miles de kilómetros de distancia afecta a muchas personas cercanas a nosotros. Me gustaría invitar a todos ustedes, miembros de la Comunidad Católica en Central Racine, a: **Una Hora Santa: La Familia de Cuatro enciende una vela por la Paz.** La Hora Santa será este lunes 16 de octubre a las 6PM en Sacred Heart. Vengan y oremos por la paz en Tierra Santa, en el mundo y nuestra comunidad.

Este fin de semana leemos la parábola del banquete de bodas. Otra parábola más dirigida a los sumos sacerdotes y a los ancianos del pueblo sobre el Reino de Dios. Esta parábola aborda la identidad misma del pueblo de Dios y su comportamiento como hijos de Dios. Me gustaría presentarles tres afirmaciones para la reflexión:

**1-Los esperados se ausentan y lo inesperados se presentan.** Aquellos que se esperaba que participaran en la fiesta encontraron maneras de rechazar la invitación porque no tenían claras sus prioridades. Su arrogancia y egocentrismo los llevó a rechazar la posibilidad de participar en el banquete. En cambio, aquellos que no eran esperados, los marginados y los necesitados aprovecharon la oportunidad de ser parte del banquete. Su sencillez de vida les dio claridad para decidir qué era realmente importante para ellos.

**2-No se puede dar por asumida la participación en el banquete.** El invitado sin la prenda pensó que con solo estar allí era suficiente. No se preparó para el banquete. Ni siquiera respondió a la pregunta del Rey. Hay trabajo por hacer y poner de nuestra parte para participar en el banquete del Señor. Hay muchas veces en nuestras vidas que damos por sentado a los demás, el amor de Dios, las amistades, la familia, la fe y lo mínimo que pasa... Necesitamos que nos recuerden que cada mañana debemos trabajar para reconocer esas gracias y trabajar para preservarlas. Si no lo hacemos, corremos el riesgo, como el invitado sin vestidura, de quedar fuera y ser expulsados del banquete.

### Weekly Schedule

Sunday/domingo 10/15  
Monday/lunes 10/16  
Tuesday/martes 10/17  
Wednesday/miércoles 10/18  
Thursday/jueves 10/19  
Friday/viernes 10/20  
Saturday/sábado 10/21  
Sunday/domingo 10/22

### Próximos Eventos

### Lecturas para la semana del 15 de octubre 2023

Domingo: Is 25, 6-10/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6 (6)/Flp 4, 12-14. 19-20 Mt 22, 1-14 o 22, 1-10  
Lunes: Rom 1, 1-7/Sal 97, 1. 2-3. 3-4/Lc 11, 29-32  
Martes: Rom 1, 16-25/Sal 18, 2-3. 4-5/Lc 11, 37-41  
Miércoles: 2 Tim 4, 9-17/Sal 144, 10-11. 12-13. 17-18/Lc 10, 1-9  
Jueves: Rom 3, 21-30/Sal 129, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6/Lc 11, 47-54  
Viernes: Rom 4, 1-8/Sal 31, 1-2. 5. 11/Lc 12, 1-7  
Sábado: Rom 4, 13. 16-18/Sal 104, 6-7. 8-9. 42-43/Lc 12, 8-12  
Domingo siguiente: Is 45, 1. 4-6/Sal 95, 1. 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10/1 Tes 1, 1-5 Mt 22, 15-21

### PARISH SUNDAY & HOLY DAY COLLECTIONS LAS COLECTAS PARA LOS DOMINGOS Y LOS DÍAS SAGRADOS

October 8, 2023/8 de octubre 2023  
Received/recibido .....\$ 8,600.27



### AMONESTACIONES/BANNS

I. Caitlyn y Josue Davalos

### Gema de Dios

Mujer, El encuentro Gema de Dios 2023 ya está aquí, si ya lo has vivido esperamos que te inscribas nuevamente. Si no lo has vivido aprovecha esta oportunidad para darte un día de descanso. En este día encontraras temas de motivación para la mujer, talleres, sobre como cuidar tu piel, momentos de diversion y alegría y sobre todo un encuentro contigo misma y con Jesus. Puedes registrarte escaneando con tu teléfono el Link que esta en los folletos a la entrada de la iglesia, o en el salo. si gustas mas Informacion puedes llamar a Ramona Delgado o Martha Huerta al 262 639 3816 o 262 221-5569.



### Encuentro de Mujeres

4 noviembre de 2023 | 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



PRESENTADORA:  
Lucía Báez Luzondo, JD  
DONACIÓN: \$70

### INTENCIONES DE ORACIÓN DEL SANTO PADRE DE OCTUBRE

**Por el Sínodo.** Oremos por la Iglesia, para que adopte la escucha y el diálogo como estilo de vida a todos los niveles, dejándose guiar por el Espíritu Santo hacia las periferias del mundo.

[popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)

APOSTLESHIP  
OF PRAYER

**3-El anuncio del Reino es un desafío para responder a la invitación de Dios a participar en su vida.** La participación en el Reino de amor de Dios no es una acción conveniente. No siempre es lo más conveniente, a veces requiere desviarnos de nuestros propios deseos. Los primeros invitados al banquete no querían molestar cambiando sus planes. Continuaron con su propio plan y no respondieron a la invitación de participar en la alegría del banquete. Hay muchas veces en mi vida que me encuentro siguiendo mi propio plan conveniente y hago oídos sordos a la invitación de Dios al gozo del momento. ¿Te pasa lo mismo?

Bendiciones  
**Juan Manuel**





## St. Richard Parish

### This Week in Our Parish

**Tuesday** Mass - 9:00 a.m. In person @ St. Edward and Live Stream  
**Wednesday** Mass - 9:00 a.m. In person @ St. Edward and Live Stream  
**Thursday** Mass-9:00 a.m. In person and Live Stream  
 Our Harmony Club - 9:00 a.m. Vogel Hall  
**Friday** Mass-9:00 a.m. In person and Live Stream  
**Saturday** Reconciliation- 3:00 p.m.  
 Rosary Prayed- 3:30p.m.  
 Mass - 4:00 p.m. In person  
**Sunday** Mass - 9:00 a.m. In person  
 Mass - 11:30 a.m. In person

The Church has designated October as the month of the Rosary, each Saturday in October we will pray the Rosary at 3:30p.m, before the 4p.m. Mass. All are welcome.



THE  
 ROSARY  
 IS THE  
 "WEAPON"  
 FOR THESE  
 TIMES.  
 ST. PADRE PIO



### Financial Stewardship for the week of : October 7th & 8th

\$2747.00 Weekly Envelopes  
 \$422.00 Offertory  
 \$65.05 Candles  
 \$55.00 Building Fund  
 \$35.00 Siena School Fund

### Calendar Raffle Winners

10/8/2023 Jackson Sievers Wheaton, IL.  
 10/11/2023 Teri Orno Mount Pleasant, WI.

### Mass Intentions

**Sunday, October 15, Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 a.m. †Leo & Lorraine Michel

11:30 a.m. † Judy Lojeski

**Thursday, October 19, Saints John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues**

9:00 a.m.

**Friday, October 20, Saint Paul of the Cross**

9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, October 21,**

4:00 p.m. †George Kinney

**Sunday, October 22, Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 a.m. †Catherine Organ

Fr. Ron - Peace and Good Health

11:30 a.m. † Joann Zlevor

### UPCOMING EVENTS

### Baby & Beyond Shower

St. Richard's Altar Society is sponsoring a baby shower the month of October to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society's baby closet. We invite you to donate new or gently used baby, toddler and children's clothing, diapers and wipes. The following items are especially needed: Diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6. Boys and girl's clothes sizes 3T-5T through 5/6, 7/8. Long sleeved shirts, sweaters, hoodies, pants, jackets especially sizes 4T up to sizes 7/8 in girls or boys. Mittens, gloves, socks, and underwear for sizes 4T-7/8 and 10. A new Pac-n-Play. As winter approaches, the need for warmer clothing will increase. We will also be doing a diaper raffle, for every package of diapers or wipes you may enter the drawing. Place your entry in the box marked "Diaper Raffle." Donation boxes and raffle boxes will be located at the Grand Ave entrance and in the alcove near the elevator. We will draw for prizes and announce the winners in the bulletin the week following the conclusion of the BABY and BEYOND Shower.

### Fifth Sunday

Sunday October 29, will be Fifth Sunday. There will be an additional collection taken during all Masses. This extra collection goes to St. Vincent de Paul. If you are writing a check please make payable to St. Richard with SVDP 5th Sunday in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Council 697 will be distributing Lifesavers after Mass the weekend of October 21-22 to support the "Lifesavers for Life". Lifesavers that are being distributed will be free. Anyone wishing to make a donation to this Pro-life program is encouraged to do so. Funds raised will help support the Ultrasound Machine Project for Care-Net Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Racine/Kenosha and support life groups such as Project Rachel and the KC State Culture of Life Fund. Look for Knights in the blue and yellow aprons.





**Save the Date(s)!**  
Anniversary Events

**Saturday, October 21: Service Saturday**  
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Friday, October 27: Fish Fry**  
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**Saturday, October 28: Family Block Party (Free)**  
12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

**Sunday, October 29: 10:00 AM Mass**  
with Bishop Haines and installation of Fr. Juan as Pastor  
Fellowship to follow

### Racine Catholic Woman's Club Begins New Year

The Racine Catholic Woman's Club opens its 121<sup>st</sup> year with a luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Infusino's Banquet Hall, 3201 Rapids Drive. The speaker will be Robert N. Miller, Chair, Siena Catholic Schools Board of Directors, and former principal and teacher at St. Catherine's High School. Mr. Miller's topic will be "St. Catherine's High School: Evolving and Adapting for 158 Years."

The Catholic Woman's Club is open to all Catholic women. The club meets monthly for lunch, October through May. Topics scheduled for the upcoming year include the Racine Literacy Council, an update on the Racine Public Library, the Eco-Justice Center, Polish-American churches and shrines, the Community of St. Paul, and the Racine Catholic Cemeteries.

In addition to offering opportunities for sharing faith and friendship, the Catholic Woman's Club provides philanthropic support for numerous local organizations. For information on membership, a schedule of monthly events, or for more information please call 262-758-6187 or 262-632-8960.



### Readings for the week of October 15, 2023

Sunday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Phil 4:12-14, 19-20  
Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10  
Monday: Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk 11:29-32  
Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 11:37-41  
Wednesday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Lk 10:1-9  
Thursday: Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Lk 11:47-54  
Friday: Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11/Lk 12:1-7  
Saturday: Rom 4:13, 16-18/Ps 105:6-7, 8-9, 42-43/Lk 12:8-12  
Next Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10/1 Thes 1:1-5b  
Mt 22:15-21

### The Family of Four Light a Candle for Peace

There will be a Holy Hour this Monday October 16, at 6PM at Sacred Heart. Come and pray for peace in the Holy Land, the world, and our community. There will be a Mass at the same time at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee.

### Cemetery Wreaths

The Holidays are quickly approaching, and the Catholic Cemetery Association of Racine will once again have "Remembrance Wreaths" available for families to purchase. The 24" wreaths will soon be delivered from Northern Wisconsin and will be ready to be installed at your loved one's earth burial gravesite, on a tri-pod stand, starting the week after Thanksgiving. The wreaths will be placed, as ordered, at each of our four cemeteries: Calvary, Holy Cross, Holy Family, and Old Holy Cross. The cost of the wreaths is \$35 each. If you would like to order a "Remembrance Wreath" to honor your deceased loved ones, please call our office at (262) 639-1071. We look forward to hearing from you.



RACINE  
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

### Thoughts from Father Juan . .

Grace and Peace to you my brothers and sisters in Christ:

This week I am writing to you from Houston, Texas. I came here to participate in the National Conference of Hispanic Ministry. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a 10-year Hispanic Ministry Plan for the U.S. Catholic Church. Our goal during these four days full of meetings is to discuss the plan and find ways to apply it back home in our dioceses. A fact that many polls tell us is that the growth of the Catholic Church in the U.S. is led by Hispanic Catholics. In our own reality in Racine, out of the 11 parishes in the city, Saint Patrick's, which holds the Hispanic Catholic Community, is the parish that celebrates more baptisms, communions, confirmations and weddings every year. This is a reality that the Bishops of the U.S. want to recognize and work for: a church of inclusion and integration of those of diverse cultural background.

I am also saddened to see what is happening in the Holy Land. This is not a conflict that is on the other side of the world. Some pilgrims from our own archdiocese were in the Holy Land when the conflict started. Their lives were at risk, but thank God they are ok and on their way home. A large number of Catholics from the City of Racine were planning to visit the Holy Land, and their trip was cancelled. This conflict thousands of miles away affected many people close to us. I would like to invite all of you members of the Catholic Community in Central Racine to a Holy Hour: **The Family of Four light a candle for Peace.** The Holy Hour will be this Monday **October 16, at 6PM at Sacred Heart.** Come and pray for peace in the Holy Land, the world, and our community.

This weekend we read the parable of the wedding feast--yet another parable addressed to the chief priests and elders of the people regarding the Kingdom of God. This parable tackles the very identity of the people of God and their behavior as God's children. I would like to present you three statements for reflection:

**1-The expected are absent and the unexpected are present.** Those who were expected to participate in the feast found ways to decline the invitation because they did not have their priorities clear. Their arrogance and self-centeredness led them to decline the possibility to participate in the banquet. Instead, those who were not expected, the marginalized and the needy, jumped at the opportunity to be part of the banquet. Their simplicity of life gave them clarity to decide what was important for them.

**2-Attendance at the banquet cannot be taken for granted.** The guest without the garment thought that just being there was enough. He did not prepare himself for the banquet. He did not even respond to the King's question. There is work that needs to be done on our part to participate in the banquet of the Lord. There are many times in our own lives that we take for granted others, God's love, friendships, family, faith and the list goes on... We need to be reminded that every morning we must work on recognizing those graces and work on preserving them. If we do not do that, we run the risk, like the guest without the garment, of being left out and expelled from the banquet.

**3-The proclamation of the Kingdom is a challenge to respond to God's invitation to participate in his life.** Participation in God's Kingdom of love is not a convenient action. It is not always the most convenient thing to do, but sometimes requires deviating from our own desires. Those who were first invited to the banquet did not want to inconvenience themselves by changing their plans. They continued their own plans and ignored the invitation to participate in the joy of the banquet. There are many times in my life that I find myself following my own convenient plan and turning a deaf ear to God's invitation to the joy of the moment. What about you?

Blessings,

Juan Manuel

### POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS 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.

[popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)

APOSTLESHIP  
OF PRAYER