

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A July 19, 2026

"[O Lord,] your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all."

Dear beloved Parishioners,

Here's a little story told by a missionary priest. It's a brief profession of faith in Jesus, whose "mastery over all things" makes him lenient toward all. His truth is his love.

Joseph, a man seventy-nine years old, was dying, surrounded by his wife, Madeleine, and their seven children. He had just received Holy Communion. It was Sunday. In younger, stronger days, he used to go to church to celebrate the feast of Jesus Christ. Today, as the dawn of eternity was rising in his eyes, it was Christ who came to Joseph's home to invite him to the Feast.

At the very moment when he died, a devout Sister, a nurse, murmured, "Now at this very moment, he is appearing before the throne of the Almighty Judge." That way of thinking came from the way she and many others had been instructed.

His wife Madeleine told me about that remark. I replied, 'Is that the first encounter Joseph has at the gate of heaven? How could this be possible if our Lord is the Lord of Love? Listen, if Joseph were your child, and if you, Madeleine, were to meet him at heaven's gate after years of separation, and if he were finally to arrive at God's home worn out with the fatigue of life: wouldn't you, his mother, take him into your arms and hold him tight to your heart? Wouldn't you say to him, *Joseph, my child, I haven't seen you in so long!*

Joseph, the father of your children, a grandfather with eyes full of gentle wisdom: he is always a child in God's eyes.



What must we think of God, whose great power is not for condemnation but for our salvation and life?

Can we live now as God's beloved children, so as to find our true home with God in heaven?

God bless you and bless us all with hearts open to God's love for us.

Msgr. Mike and Fr. Albert