

Our Life: Prayer, Community, and Service

Paige Byrne Shortal

Many folks have a gut-level “Not fair!” reaction to today’s Gospel. The laborers who show up at dusk and work for an hour are paid the same as those who come at dawn and work all day? You’ve got to be kidding!

This parable is not about working conditions in first-century Palestine, but just for a moment, let’s say it is. Have you ever seen folks standing by the side of the road with a sign, “Will work for food!” and thought, *Why don’t they get a job? Why are they so lazy?* Have you ever tried standing on a highway entrance ramp from early morning until the sun goes down? Standing there in the cold or in the rain without a hot cup of coffee or a sandwich? That’s a more difficult day than I had today.

Consider those laborers in the parable who were waiting in the marketplace to be hired, even at the end of the day, hoping against hope to earn enough to put a little food in their mouths and the mouths of the children. Are we so sure they are undeserving?

I was talking with my friend Bob about this reading. Upon retirement, Bob decided to get more involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was first attracted to their mission statement: “Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to



those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederick Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.” (Important side note: Our Church’s annual memorial to St. Vincent de Paul will take place on September 27.)

Bob pointed out to me the three essential elements: spirituality, faith community, and service. The combination of the three is significant. There are organizations for enhancing one’s spiritual life, clubs for providing fellowship, and plenty of not-for-profit groups for service. The three elements together provide necessary balance and what is needed for the Christian life: prayer, community, and service.

Serving the poor is a Gospel mandate. Jesus talks about it often. The only picture of the last judgment in the Gospels is described in Matthew 25: “I was hungry and you gave me food....Just as you did

it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers a way to serve even for people like me: people who are frankly afraid of encountering the poor, of not knowing what to say, of the inconvenience, of not being able to help very much.

We who live well can be blind to the poor whom Jesus calls his brothers and sisters. When I die, I want to hear Jesus say, “I was hungry and you gave me food...so come on in and join the party!” †

**Serving the poor
is a Gospel mandate!
The Society of St. Vincent
de Paul offers ways
to do just that.**



**Wondrous God, we ask for
the grace to see as you see
and to reflect your face
to each person we meet.
We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS September 25–30

Monday, Weekday:
Ezr 1:1–6 / Lk 8:16–18

Tuesday, Weekday:
Ezr 6:7–8, 12b, 14–20 / Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday, St. Vincent de Paul:
Ezr 9:5–9 / Lk 9:1–6

Thursday, Weekday:
Hg 1:1–8 / Lk 9:7–9

Friday, Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael:
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12a / Jn 1:47–51

Saturday, St. Jerome:
Zec 2:5–9, 14–15a / Lk 9:43b–45

Bringing Home
the Word
September 24, 2023

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Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
September 24, 2023

It’s Not Fair!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The story in the Gospel doesn’t sound fair. Some people worked from early morning until evening; others joined them at the end of the workday. But they all got the same pay. How can that be fair? Perhaps fairness isn’t the point of the story. But then, what is?

The landowner, symbolizing God, hired the workers “after agreeing with them for the usual daily wage” (Matthew 20:2). If the earliest workers presumed that the agreed-upon wage would be changed, does that make God unfair? Those workers expected God to conform to what they considered just—and justice certainly is a very important value. However, God acted out of divine generosity—a quality we hope to

benefit from but which might engender resentment when it is bestowed upon others.

As difficult as this story might seem to us, it raises some important questions about ourselves. Perhaps the story is not so much about God as it is about our own attitudes. If we are faithful to what we believe is God’s will for us, do we then presume that God owes us some kind of compensation? Do we expect that God will act according to our standards of retributive justice (this-for-that) rather than restorative justice (bring-it-back-to-life)? Do we resent God’s graciousness toward others?

It is better that we all look to God for generosity than for justice. If we do, we will find, as the psalm response tells us: “The Lord is gracious and merciful” (Psalm 145:8). †

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 55:6–9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.

Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

Matthew 20:1–16a

[Jesus said,] “Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**Do we resent
God’s graciousness
toward others?**



A Word from Pope Francis

Let us remember who was the first canonized saint in the Church: the Good Thief. He “stole” Paradise at the last minute of his life: this is Grace. This is what God is like, even with us. Instead, those who seek thinking of their own merits fail; those who humbly entrust themselves to the Father’s mercy...find themselves first.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you look to God for generosity or justice?
- Would it help to pray for the grace to remember that everything is a gift from God?



Parish of St. Vincent De Paul

"We as a community rooted in the Catholic faith seek to imitate Christ's
Examples of love and service to others and spread the light of our faith to others."

Parish phone: 509-234-2262 **Sept. 24, 2023** website: stvincentconnell.org

Fr. Lutakome Deo Nsubuga

Deacon Arturo Biebrich parish phone: 509-222-9223 after 5 pm only

25th Sunday Ordinary Time

Mass Sept. 24, 2023

Lector: Stacy Kniveton

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Marv G. Greg H.

Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Stacy & Olivia Kniveton

Altar Servers:

Giselle & Aubriel

26th Sunday Ordinary Time

Mass Oct. 1, 2023

Lector: Danny Holt

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Stacy F. Wally G.

Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Leo & Elida Fernández

Alter Servers:

Isabella & Nadia Holt

Pope's Prayer intentions:

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 Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's in Eltopia

10:30 a.m. @ St. Vincent's (English)

12:00 p.m. @ St. Vincent's (Spanish)

Saturday: 7:00 p.m. @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Adoration @ St. Vincent's

8:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Vincent's

Confessions: Wednesdays 6:30 pm @ St. Vincent's

Friday 4:30 pm @ San Juan Diego

Church Secretary: Elida Fernández - secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com

Tues, Weds. Thurs 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917; 12 pm – 3:30 pm on Tues. Weds. Thurs.

Prayer Chain: Call Carolyn Nordhus @ 509-234-5972

Breezeway Calendar: If you have any parish events or meetings that you would like
on the all-parish calendar that is posted in the breezeway please contact
Marla Goade @ 539-5354 wmgoade73@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletin: Please email Elida Fernández secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com by
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS for information to be included in the upcoming Sunday
bulletin. Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917

Website: To add or send information, pictures or news to the website please
email Jaeniffer Kaiser @ jaeniffer2002@hotmail.com

LIKE our Facebook page to get updated posts and information about our parish. You can also
see photos of all the activities that have been happening. If you want to post church happenings on
Facebook, please email Onna Pollock at olpollock@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Altar Flowers

Oct. – Altar Society

Nov. – Guadalupanas

NO CONFESSIONS

This Wednesday Sept. 27th

@ St. Vincent Parish @ 6:30 pm

Confession Schedule

@ St. Pat's –Pasco

Wednesdays

5 pm – 8 pm

@ Sacred Heart- Othello

Wed. @ 5 pm

Connell Food Bank

Banco de Comida

Seniors: Tuesdays

3rd Edad- Tues. / Martes

Sept. 26th

10:00 am – 11:30 am

General Public:

El público en general:

Wed. / Miércoles

Sept. 27th

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Thank You for Your Generous Contributions

Aug. 6, 2023

10:30 am - \$1865.55

12:00 pm – \$577.60

Basin City – \$778.00

Aug. 13, 2023

10:30 am - \$593.00

12:00 pm – \$319.00

Basin City – \$760.00

Aug. 20, 2023

10:30 am - \$422.00

12:00 pm – \$545.65

Basin City – \$795.00

Aug. 27, 2023

10:30 am - \$1392.00

12:00 pm – \$522.95

Basin City – \$1129.66

High School Rel. Ed

Every Wednesday at 5:30 pm

We have dinner and then our lessons
and activities start at 6 pm.

Come learn about our Catholic faith.

ST. VINCENT FEAST DAY TODAY!

Immediately following the Mass the
Guadalupanas will be sharing a meal
with the parish in celebration of
Saint Vincent Feast day.

All are invited!

SMALL GROUPS MEET

Women's' Group

2nd Mon. of the month @ 9:30 am / Jeannie Reimers

More info call Julie Hart 531-0388

Couple's Group

3rd Thurs. of the month @ 7pm / Grassl's home

More info call Anne Grassl 521-7494

Men's Group

4th Thurs. of the month 7:30 am / Parish Hall

More info call Greg Hart 539-1260

Steer Raffle

Enrique Lopez

(509-431-2272 for more info) is raising funds
for St. Vincent Parish.

\$20 per ticket.

He will be selling tickets after both
masses on Sundays.

FR. LUTA'S SCHEDULE FOR 2 WEEKS:

Sept. 24, 2023 – Oct. 8, 2023

Mon. Sept. 25:

Fr. Luta's day of rest.

6:30 pm Pre-Teens Meets @ Connell

Tues. Sept. 26:

4:00 pm Confessions @ Eltopia

5:00 pm Mass @ Eltopia

Wed. Sept. 27:

8:00 am Adoration @ Connell

8:30 am Mass @ Connell

5:30 Hi School Rel. Ed

No Confession @ Connell

Thurs. Sept. 28:

10:00 am Adoration @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia

Fri. Sept. 29:

8:30 am Prison Ministry @ Connell

4:30 pm Confessions @ Basin City

Sat. Sept. 30:

3:00 pm Quinceanera @ Connell

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun. Oct. 1: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

Please Keep Fr. Luta in Our Prayers.

Mon. Oct. 2:

Fr. Luta's day of rest.

6:30 pm Pre-Teens Meets @ Basin City

Tues. Oct. 3:

4:00 pm Confessions @ Eltopia

5:00 pm Mass @ Eltopia

Wed. Oct. 4:

8:00 am Adoration @ Connell

8:30 am Mass @ Connell

5:30 Hi School Rel. Ed

6:30 pm Confession @ Connell

Thurs. Oct. 5:

10:00 am Adoration @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia

Fri. Oct. 6:

8:30 am Prison Ministry @ Connell

4:30 pm Confessions @ Basin City

Sat. Oct. 7:

11:00 am Quinceanera @ Basin City

1:00 pm Quinceanera @ Connell

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun. Oct. 8: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell