

Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wishes to come after me
must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30, 2020

SUFFERING

Suffering. We all know it. It is an inescapable part of the human experience. Our readings today help us understand what to do with suffering, how to redeem it for eternal glory. In a tenderly poetic passage, the prophet Jeremiah clings to the Lord, despite the suffering and hatred he endures in God’s service. Since speaking on behalf of the Lord is the cause of his anguish, Jeremiah flirts with the idea of giving it all up, of abandoning his ministry. But God is “too strong,” and Jeremiah remains faithful even in violent times. He knows, as the psalmist sings, that there is no life without God, for whom our souls thirst. Saint Paul acknowledges the universality of suffering and urges us to offer our suffering to God. God alone can transform our pain, our “crosses,” into good for others, just as God redeemed the ultimate suffering of Jesus.

OFFER IT UP!

As Saint Paul says, we can offer our personal experiences as a “living sacrifice.” Let’s offer up our daily prayers, thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sufferings. Let’s unite our sacrifices to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus we celebrate in the Eucharist. Our sacrifices—little or big, happy or sad—become the stuff of miracles. Consider the example of the loaves and fishes we read about a few weeks ago. Jesus’ tender heart pities the hungry crowds. Jesus asks the disciples to offer anything they can spare. Using the ridiculously inadequate offering of five loaves and two fish, Jesus goes to work. He blesses their offering, breaks it, and uses it to satisfy thousands. Baskets overflow. Jesus uses a tiny offering and transforms it into real help for people in need.

We too can offer sacrifices for Jesus to transform. When we are confronted with problems we know we can’t solve, Jesus remains calm. He asks us to give what we can. Often, we have no confidence. We scoff at our own pathetic attempts. We cannot imagine how God could possibly use our boring little sacrifices of dishwashing, caregiving, or e-mail-managing to bless the world. But Jesus takes whatever we offer. He blesses it. He breaks it. He transforms it into grace for ourselves and for all people in need.

PRAISE GOD!

The mystery of redemptive suffering transforms our lives, but it is not an easy mystery to accept. Suffering is not attractive. Especially when suffering afflicts innocent people, we cry out to God for justice and relief. Jesus’ words today penetrate our hearts: “You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” We beg the Lord to accept our suffering, then, and to transform it in ways we cannot imagine. Embracing the details and crosses of daily life, we look forward to the day when Jesus comes in glory, revealing to us how he used our sacrifices to bless the world.

TODAY’S READINGS

Jeremiah 20:7–9
Psalm 63:2–6, 8–9
Romans 12:1–2
Matthew 16:21–27

Sketch, *Martyrdom of Saint Peter*, 1598/99

Andrea Boscoli

Italian, c. 1560–1600

Chicago Institute of Art (CIC)

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Jesús dijo a sus discípulos:
 “El que quiera venir conmigo,
 que renuncie a sí mismo,
 que tome su cruz y me siga”.

Mateo 16:24

Vigésimo Segundo

Domingo del
 Tiempo Ordinario

30 de agosto de 2020

SUFRIMIENTO

Sufrimiento. Todos lo sabemos. Es una parte ineludible de la experiencia humana. Nuestras lecturas de hoy nos ayudan a entender qué hacer con el sufrimiento, cómo redimirlo para la gloria eterna. En un pasaje tiernamente poético, el profeta Jeremías se aferra al Señor, a pesar del sufrimiento y el odio que sufre en el servicio de Dios. Dado que hablar en nombre del Señor es la causa de su angustia, Jeremías coquetea con la idea de renunciar todo, de abandonar su ministerio. Pero Dios es “demasiado fuerte”, y Jeremías permanece fiel incluso en tiempos violentos. Sabe, como canta el salmista, que no hay vida sin Dios, por quien nuestras almas tienen sed. San Pablo reconoce la universalidad del sufrimiento y nos insta a ofrecer nuestro sufrimiento a Dios. Sólo Dios puede transformar nuestro dolor, nuestras “cruces”, en bienes para los demás, así como Dios redimió el sufrimiento final de Jesús.

OFRECERLO

Así como san Pablo dice, podemos ofrecer nuestra experiencia personal como un “sacrificio vivo”. Ofrezcamos nuestras oraciones diarias, pensamientos, palabras, acciones, alegrías y sufrimientos. Unamos nuestros sacrificios al sacrificio perfecto que celebramos en la Eucaristía. Nuestros sacrificios, pequeños o grandes, felices o tristes, se hacen la materia prima de los milagros. Considera el ejemplo de los panes y pescados que leímos hace unas semanas. El corazón de Jesús se entristece ante las multitudes hambrientas. Jesús pide a sus discípulos que ofrezcan cualquier cosa que les sobre. Usando lo irrisoria e inadecuada ofrenda de cinco panes y dos pescados, Jesús obra. Él bendice su ofrenda, parte el pan y lo comparte para satisfacer el hambre de miles. Las canastas rebozan. Jesús utiliza una pequeña ofrenda y la transforma en una ayuda verdadera para ofrecer a las personas más necesitadas.

Nosotros también podemos ofrecer sacrificios para que Jesús los transforme. Cuando tenemos que enfrentar problemas sabemos que no podemos resolverlos, Jesús permanece calmado. Él nos pide dar lo que podamos. A menudo, no tenemos confianza. Nos burlamos de nuestros intentos patéticos. No podemos imaginar cómo Dios podría posiblemente usar nuestros sacrificios pequeños aburridos de lavar los trastes, hacer la limpieza o enviar correos electrónicos para bendecir el mundo. Pero Jesús toma cualquier cosa que ofrezcamos. Él lo bendice. Lo parte. Lo transforma en gracia para nosotros y para todas las personas necesitadas.

¡ALABADO SEA DIOS!

El misterio del sufrimiento redentor transforma nuestras vidas, pero no es un misterio fácil de aceptarlo. El sufrimiento no es atractivo. Especialmente cuando el sufrimiento aflige a personas inocentes, levantamos la voz a Dios por justicia y alivio. Las palabras de Jesús hoy penetran nuestros corazones: “tú modo de pensar no es el de Dios, sino el de los hombres”. Rogamos para que el Señor acepte nuestro sufrimiento y lo transforme en formas que no podemos imaginar. Abrazando los detalles y las cruces de la vida diaria, ansiamos el día cuando Jesús vuelva en su gloria, revelándonos cómo él usó nuestros sacrificios para bendecir al mundo.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Jeremías 20:7–9
 Salmo 63 (62):2–6, 8–9
 Romanos 12:1–2
 Mateo 16:21–27

Esbozo, **Martino de San Pedro**, 1598/99

Andrea Boscoli

Italiano, c. 1560–1608

Chicago Institute of Art (CIC)

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Our Parish Financial Corner

Update

Sunday 8-23-2020:

Envelopes/checks:	\$ 6,905.00
Plate:	616.00
Online Giving 8-23-2020:	\$ 5,921.00
Total for 8-23-2020:	\$ 13,442.00
JPII Debt Envelopes/checks:	\$ 565.00
JPII Debt online 8-23-2020:	\$ 408.00
Total JPII 08-23-2020:	\$ 973.00
Total Misc. Income:	\$ 2,603.00
Feast of the Assumption:	\$ 95.00

Dear Parishioners,

For your convenience we have provided several ways you can send us your offering.

- Safely drop off in the office between the hours 9 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Thurs.
- Drop in the mail slot in the Serra Building which is checked daily
- Mail in to St. Peter & St. Paul, 9135 Banyan St. Alta Loma, 91737
- Online giving via our website stpeterstpaul.com
- Through your bank

Thank you for your continued support of our parish and we all pray that we will be back together in our pews very soon. May God bless you and keep you and your families safe.

In Christ's Service

Father Henry

JPII

Parish Debt Elimination Campaign

August payment: \$19,200.00

Balance on Debt: \$179,028.72



**Prayer to Saint Joseph for intercession in
Financial Difficulty**

Dear Saint Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon those parish families in their anxiety over their present inability to support their families.

Please help them to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from their hearts and that they are soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to their care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement, so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.



Diocesan Development Fund

Diocese Goal: \$99,975.00

Pledges Made: \$130,413.00


Gifts Received: \$98,403.20

Donors: 433

Percent of Goal: 98.43 %


As of: Aug 20, 2020 9:12PM

Catholic Spirituality	Mass Schedule & Intentions
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Susan Vogt—Author, Speaker, Coach
Helping couples & families foster their deepest beliefs.

Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers




JEREMIAH
"You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped." (Jeremiah 20:7) Life can be like that. When you were baptized, confirmed, married, you probably had positive expectations about how this commitment would work out. And then one learns that faith and marriage can be challenging, even disappointing at times. It's not all bliss and beauty. But still we hang on because underneath it all is someone who loves us - despite our failings.

Heaven on Earth ... Friday's from 7 pm to 8 pm



Sign Up for
Adoration

During the COVID - 19 pandemic



Divine Mercy in My Soul
from the Diary of

The soul's true greatness is in loving God and in humbling oneself in His presence, completely forgetting oneself and believing oneself to be nothing; because the Lord is great, but He is well-pleased only with the humble; He always opposes the proud.
-- St Faustina, Divine Mercy in my Soul

Mass Schedule & Intentions	
Saturday, August 22	
4:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday, August 23	
7:30 AM	Pam Jipp †Roberto C. Urete Jr.
9:00 AM	Albino Valenzuela †Beatrice Escobar †Julia Ramirez Tagorda
11:00 AM	†Bernardino Oliveira †Ralph (Ralfi) Delgado
1:00 PM	Maria Quiroz y Familia †Jaime Rodriguez †Angelina Rodriguez
5:00 PM	Alexis Zarate - Happy Birthday †Roberto C. Urete Jr.
Monday, August 24	
7:30 AM	†Linda Santuci †Jo Anne Rivera
Tuesday, August 25	
7:30 AM	William Cabison - Happy Birthday †Perfecto Calaycay
Wednesday, August 26	
7:30 AM	Indira Riveros †Mike Zettlemaier
Thursday, August 27	
7:30 AM	Maria Que Thi Pham †Ruel Lopena
Friday, August 28	
7:30 AM	Vianey Ojeda - Happy Birthday †Robert Vest
Saturday, August 29	
4:00 PM	†Jose Hernandez †Peter Hernandez
Sunday, August 30	
7:30 AM	People of the Parish
9:00 AM	†Jesus Depra Descalsota †Edward Kinavey
11:00 AM	Eduardo Menendez - Happy Birthday †Armando Leopoldo Rios Monica De Jesus
1:00 PM	
5:00 PM	†Epafrodito Pascua †Johnson Chan

Romans 12:1-2

Tagalog Kaya nga, mga kapatid, alang-alang sa masaganang habag ng Diyos sa atin, ako'y nakikiusap sa inyo na ialay ninyo ang inyong sarili bilang isang handog na buháy, banal at kalugud-lugod sa Diyos. Ito ang karapat-dapat na pag-samba^{al} ninyo sa Diyos. Huwag kayong makiayon sa takbo ng mundong ito. Sa halip, hayaan ninyong baguhin ng Diyos ang inyong pag-iisip upang maunawaan ninyo ang kanyang kalooban. Sa gayon, magagawa ninyo kung ano ang mabuti, kalugud-lugod at ganap na kalooban ng Diyos.

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

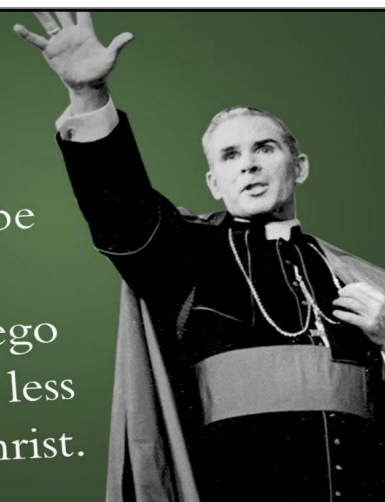
Please visit my blog www.priestmbp.com
 To stay connected with you, the People of God.
 May God help you to find whichever is lost in your life.
 I just found some words and sentences instead of that missing back pack.

THE PRIEST OF THE MISSING BACK PACK

"I DID NOT FIND MY BACK PACK, BUT I FOUND MANY REASONS TO WRITE ABOUT THE LORD..."



I don't want
 my life to
 be mine,
 I want it to be
Christ's.
 The more ego
 there is, the less
 there is of Christ.



Lord make us more like you. Amen



St. Vincent de Paul's Corner

National SVDP has asked that our
 helpline be closed
 For the safety of everyone
 due to the pandemic

For immediate assistance, dial 211 or
 Catholic Charities (909) 880-3625
 Questions about SVDP? Contact:

Scott, sandsky8@gmail.com or Fred, Firetruckfreddy@earthlink.net

Food donations for those in need in our community can be placed at any time in the container in front of the office. A portion will be distributed to the food pantry at His Hands at St. Joseph's church in Upland. Questions about food donations? Sherry B. Busiabaer@outlook.com

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Matthew 25: 31-46



The Military Ministry at St Peter St Paul is currently seeking parishioners with family members serving in the military.



Military Ministry Request

The Military Ministry at St. Peter & St. Paul is seeking anyone interested in being part of our team, which will be made up of parishioners who have family members actively serving in the military. As well as, those who have a love for our military and are dedicated to keeping those who have served in our prayers. Activities of this ministry will consist of mailing care packages to military family members of our parishioners, support for families that have a loved one serving in active duty, coordinating with past and present military families for parish events, organizing special Masses and events for the Military holidays and celebrations. you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact: Jonathan & Lynde Peralta (Jonathan @ 951-285-0270, Lynde @909-938-3243)

**It was pride that changed angels
 into devils; it is humility that
 makes men as angels.**

Saint Augustine

Military Prayer List Please pray for those serving our country

(PFC) Jacob Beaty
 (AMN) Jacob Beckham
 (MC) Hadji Cabangcalan
 (MSG) Carlos Carrasco
 (LTC) Jeffrey Combalecer
 (PFC) Candace Cordero
 (SGT) Christian Cortez
 (SGT) Kurt Rehnburg
 (SMCCA) Raymund Alvaran
 (E3) Alexander Jimenez
 (PFC) Jacob Rivas

(PFC) Christian Lopez
 (SSG) Kamrin Pavlos
 (PO) Matthew Peralta
 (MSG) Victor Sanez
 (SSG) Jordan Stone
 (Specialist) Nathan Taylor
 (Sgt) Riley Villapando
 (SR) Nicole Woodall
 (USMC) Joseph Luzzini
 Daniel Duarte III

ST. PETER & ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL ■ WHERE FAITH MEETS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE!

JULY CALENDAR

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY—WEDNESDAY | 8:30 AM—1:30 PM
6-10: SCHOOL OFFICE IS CLOSED



Do you need a Gift Card for a Birthday, Anniversary, Clothing, Gas, Food or Everyday items?

We sell Scrip gift cards for many retailers like Target, Arco, Walmart, Panera Bread, Arco, Starbuck's, etc. Stop by our school office from 8:30-9:30 am Mondays. The gift card rebates (% varies per gift card purchase) support our school. **Not a school family? No problem!** You may still buy gift cards to help our general fund or support a school family with their Tuition Support Obligation. See the Office for details.



ADMINISTRATION

- Kelly Burt—Principal
- Joann Losciale—Preschool Director
- Laura Onopa—Business Manager
- Maria Trujillo—Administrative Assistant

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! #SPSPSAINTS

Thank You for Supporting our 31st Saints Gala Online Auction

All proceeds will directly benefit our academic & athletic programs.

♥ In Smaller Classes Students...
 Are Part of a Close-Knit Community ♦ Process More & Participate Frequently ♦ Speak Up & Are Higher Achievers
 Have More One-to-One Time w/Teachers ♦ Are More Likely to Excel in H.S. & Beyond ♦ Help Your Child Succeed in Life.

ENROLL NOW!



† FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! †

Now Enrolling for SY 2020-21
Preschool - 8th Grade



"TO BE SAINTS IS NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW, BUT A VOCATION FOR EVERYONE" - POPE FRANCIS

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>Smaller Class Sizes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool Classes = 12 • Average Grade School Classes = 16:1 | <p>Co-curricular Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computers, Music, Art, Spanish, and Sparks® Physical Education School Library & RC Book Mobile | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCEA/WASC Accredited • Diocesan & CA Common Core Standards • Credentialed Teachers • Weekly School Mass | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated Reader & Math • ICSL Sports Program • Before & after school 7 a.m.—6 p.m. • Catered hot lunch program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovated classrooms • New S.T.E.A.M. Lab • 100 Mile Club® • AHA Kids Heart Challenge • Community Service and Outreach |
|---|--|--|--|--|



August

Youth Ministry and Confirmation

Sign up now for all ministries!
Forms available online at stpeterstpaul.com

Ministries offered by the Youth Office:

Youth Groups:

EDGE

Middle School

Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community.

LIFE TEEN

High School

Life Teen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church, Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

For more information please contact Maggie

Catechism:

Sacramental Prep.

Sacramental Preparation is available for all high school and middle school teens who are seeking to receive their First Communion.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is open for all teens ready to take a step forward in their faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your teen must be 14 at the time of enrollment.

For more information please contact Daniel

Young Adults:

RENEWED

Renewed is a young adult group for anyone in their early stage of adulthood.

For more information please contact Maggie

Staff/Hours

Maggie Kelledy-Paroski - Youth Minister ext. 301
Daniel Manriquez - Youth Confirmation Coordinator ext. 300
Suzy Metzgar - Youth Ministry Admin. Assistant ext. 225

(909) 987-9312

Office Hours:

Mon & Tues: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Wed & Thurs: Through phone only, use ext. 301 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fri-Sun: CLOSED



Ministry ZOOM Meeting Contacts

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers

Saturday @ 7:30-9:00 am

Contact: Chuck Denise. cfdinise@gmail.com

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday @ 9-10:30 am and 7-8:30 pm

Contact: Jenny Campbell. jcampbell@stpeterstpaul.com

Boy Scout Troop

Monday @ 6:55 pm

Contact: Marc Cobb. Marccobb@verizon.net

*Note: Knights of Columbus meetings are for members only Contact Marc Cobb

Catholic Daughters- Our Lady of Fatima Court #1387

3rd Monday @ 7 pm with rosary at 6:30 pm

Contact: Yvette Weilacker. yweilacker@gmail.com

Hispanic Community

Daily rosary in Spanish

Friday June 5 at 7pm

Contact: Mercedes Aschenbrenner. mercedesasch@icloud.com

St. Vincent de Paul Member Meeting

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Scott Schwartz. sandnsky8@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday @ 10:30-12:00

Contact: Mary Jo Kunkel. mjkunke155@gmail.com

ACTS

Women - 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Men - 3rd Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Tiffany Wulkopf. tiffanywulkopf@gmail.com or 909-565-3348

Virtual pre-baptism classes

Once a month beginning June

Contact: Aileen Gamalinda for more information. agamalinda@stpeterstpaul.com

**REV. HENRY SSERIISO
PASTOR**

**REV. JUAN SANDOVAL
PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**DEACON
JOHN BARNA**

**DEACON
ROBERT BEIDLE**

Our Pastoral Clergy / Staff 987-9312

Fr. Henry Sseriiso Ext. 223
hsseriiso@stpeterstpaul.com

Fr. Juan Sandoval Ext. 304
jsandoval@stpeterstpaul.com

Deacon John Barna
john.w.barna1969@gmail.com
Deacon Bob Beidle
bob.beidle@gmail.com

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Roman Catholic Church
9135 Banyan Street, Alta Loma, Ca 91737
909-987-9312 FAX 909-980-9404

Faith Formation for Children (Grades 1-5)
Baptism (909) 980-9423

School (Preschool - Grade 8)
(909) 987-7908

During hours the office is closed, call
909-477-3362 for Emergencies.

<http://www.stpeterstpaul.com>
<https://app.flocknote.com/spspaltaloma>
www.facebook.com/spspaltaloma

Regular Parish Office Hours (909) 987-9312

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Friday Closed

Children's Faith Formation & Baptism (909) 980-9423

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Or by appointment
CLOSED Fridays

Youth Ministry

Sun: Closed/Mon: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm/ Tues. 1:30 pm 4:30 pm /
Wed: Closed / Thurs: 1:30 pm -
4:30 pm/ Fri: By Appointment / Sat: Closed

Our Parish Office Staff 987-9312

Business Manager	Karen Hein	Ext. 230
IT (Support Specialist)	Jason Cary	
	jcary@stpeterstpaul.com	
Liturgy Administrative Assistant	Carolina Menendez	Ext. 303
Life Teen Music Coordinator	Melissa Acosta	Ext. 227
Matrimonial Sacraments	Aileen Gamalinda	Ext. 231
Music Director	Audrey Donaldson	Ext. 227
Pastoral Care	Debby Leonardo	Ext. 302
	Gloria Rivera	Ext. 222
Parish Admin. Assistant /Bulletin	Alex Zarate	Ext. 242
Parish Office Secretary	Ann Hogan	Ext. 221

Kindness is the Language

Which

THE DEAF CAN HEAR AND THE BLIND CAN SEE

Parish School / Preschool through – 8th grade: 987-7908

Principal – Preschool Director	Kelly Burt	Ext. 235
Business Manager	Laura Onopa	Ext. 245
Administrative Assistant	Maria Trujillo	Ext. 234

Parish Mission Statement

We the people of St. Peter and St. Paul Parish, as members of the Roman Catholic Church, are a sacramental, worshipping community on a journey towards the fulfillment of Christ's Kingdom. We strive to provide a spiritual haven for all people without distinction. We are equally committed to the challenges of the gospel message. We accept its call to ongoing conversion, the use of our gifts for the benefit of our community, and loving service to one another.

**Pray for the dead
and
Fight to the end for the living**



We at Saint Peter and Saint Paul Catholic Church are excited and feel very blessed with the arrival of one of our seminarians, Arinze Ezeoke. Arinze will be serving his internship here at St. Peter & St. Paul during his final year of preparation for the priesthood.

Arinze came to join his mother in California in 2009 and with the help of the Holy Spirit, Young Adult Ministry and the Charismatic Renewal movement, he said yes to a call to the priesthood. He began to learn how to listen to God and how God speaks to him in prayer. In his own words, Michael explains: “Without a prayer life, I never would have imagined choosing to discern where God is calling me.” During his seminary studies, he has participated in the RCIA process, as well as ministering to those in nursing homes and prisons. He learned about meeting people

where they are.

He is a member of Sacred Heart Parish here in Rancho Cucamonga and he has also participated in several events at our parish, including our Corpus Christi Processions. During this coming academic year, Arinze will be an active member of our staff and will be introducing himself as well as participating in the various ministries and apostolates within our parish community.

Please give a warm welcome to our future holy priest, Arinze Ezeoke.



Pope at Mass: Let us be challenged by Jesus

By Christopher Wells - 29 June 2020

Pope Francis offered Mass for the **Solemnity of St Peter and Paul** in the Vatican Basilica, built over the tomb of St Peter. In accordance with a long-standing tradition, the Holy Father also blessed the pallia, an ecclesiastical garment presented to metropolitan archbishops as a symbol of unity with the Holy See. In his homily, the Pope reflected on the themes of “unity” and “prophecy.”

Unity the fruit of prayer

Although very different in experience and personality, Peter and Paul were united as brothers, the Holy Father said. Their closeness to one another was not a result of natural inclination, he explained, but came from the Lord, who commands us to love one another. “He is the one who unites us,” the Pope said, “without making us all alike.” Pope Francis explained that the source of unity is prayer, and pointed to the example of the Church praying together for St Peter when he was in prison. The faithful of the time did not complain about persecution but gathered together in prayer. If we spent more time in prayer and less time complaining, the Pope said, “so many doors would be opened, so many chains that bind would be broken.”

Prophecy follow challenges

The challenges faced by Peter and Paul led to “prophecy,” the second theme of the Pope’s homily. “The Apostles were challenged by Jesus,” the Pope said: Peter, when Jesus asked the Apostles, “Who do you say that I am?”; and Paul, when Jesus asked him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” “These challenges and reversals,” the Pope said, “are followed by prophecies.” At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus tells Peter he will be the rock on which He will found His Church. Paul, after his conversion, became the Lord’s “chosen instrument” to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles. “Prophecy is born whenever we allow ourselves to be challenged by God,” said Pope Francis.

Need for real prophecy

“Today we need prophecy, real prophecy,” he continued. Real prophecy does not consist in spectacular displays, but in bearing witness in one’s life to the love of God: “This is how Peter and Paul preached Jesus, as men in love with God.” Their love led them to offer their lives as martyrs: “That was prophecy,” the Pope said, “and it changed history.” Recalling once again the Lord’s prophecy to Peter, the rock, Pope Francis said there is a similar promise for us. “Just as the Lord turned Simon into Peter,” the Pope explained, “so He is calling each one of us, in order to make us living stones with which to build a renewed Church and a renewed unity.” Pope Francis concluded inviting everyone to allow ourselves to “be challenged by Jesus” and to respond to His call to be “builders of unity” and “prophets of God’s heaven on earth.”



~Please Note~



Mass Time (Change)

8:00 AM