

# Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 16, 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In his letter for this year's World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis writes, "All peoples and cultures have the right to receive the message of salvation which is God's gift to every person. This is all the more necessary when we consider how many injustices, wars, and humanitarian crises still need resolution. Missionaries know from experience that the Gospel of forgiveness and mercy can bring joy and reconciliation, justice, and peace."

With these few words, our Holy Father describes the nature of the Church's evangelization efforts when it comes to fulfilling the command of Jesus to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations." World Mission Sunday affords each of us the opportunity to pray for missionaries and also to make an offering so that the Holy Father is able to provide for the needs of missionaries as they go about proclaiming in word and action the Gospel of Mercy so close to the heart of Pope Francis.

On Sunday, October 23, we will observe this year's World Mission Sunday. I ask that you pray even more intensely for those who respond to the Lord's call to go to the ends of the earth to proclaim the Gospel. I also ask that you be as generous as your means permit when the collection for World Mission Sunday is taken up in your parish church. May the Lord grant you every grace and peace.

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
† Edward B. Scharfenberger  
Bishop of Albany

## Penny Social Help

THEMED BASKETS are NEEDED to raffle at the Penny Social on Friday, November 4, in Father Willis Hall. Suggestions: *movie night, baking, Italian dinner, tea time, junk food.* The Social is fast approaching so remember you can drop off your items in the office Monday thru Friday between 10:30 and 3:30.

## Bakers Needed

Bakers are needed for our upcoming coffee hours. You can leave your baked goods in the kitchen the morning of the coffee hour on your way into Mass. ~ Thank you.

## Catechist Fall Certification Retreat

The next Fall Certification Retreat for Catechists will be Saturday, October 29, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Albany from 9 am to 4:15 pm. For catechists teaching up to and including sixth grade, this Retreat will 'jump start' your ministry as well as complete your provisional certification. Enjoy hands-on activities, group discussions, and prayer with your fellow catechists. Registration forms are in the office or call 518.453.6602.

## Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

*Pray always.* Luke 18:1

It is easy to say "Pray always" but is it really practical? If we broaden our concept of prayer, it is. Service to the family can be a form of prayer. Think doing dishes, fixing stuff around the house, taking care of sometimes crabby kids, providing an income for necessities .... Bring prayerful mindfulness to one such act today.

## The Priory Retreat, Chestertown 518.494.3733

Come. Be Still. Listen.... November 11-13

As it gets closer to the holidays you may feel called to take time for your own growth and reflection to refocus on your inner calling and purpose. Surrender to the beauty of the Priory grounds and the grace of God to rejuvenate your soul through quiet reflection. Choose to stay for a quiet afternoon or for the entire weekend. Meals, accommodations, and spiritual direction can be provided if you wish to spend a day, afternoon, or weekend.

Cost: \$65/single, \$80/double;  
meals: \$5 to \$15.

## What Example Does the Widow Give?

Many widows found a home in Christian communities as Luke reports in Acts 6:1 and 9:36-41. Perhaps it is Christian widows like these who preserve the parable at the heart of this Sunday's Gospel. Reading the story with Luke's frame around it makes it hard to see the unjust judge as anyone else but God. His character implies that God will hear us only if we pray persistently, that God has to be persuaded to listen to us. This is not how Jesus presents God in His other parables. So why here?

And what about the widow? We know widows and how hard their lives can be. But the widow here is not asking for food and basic necessities. She is seeking her "just rights." The word in Greek, *ekdikeo*, is not the usual term for justice but a word that means 'settling with an adversary' or even 'seeking vengeance.' The judge is arbitrating in a lawsuit. We have a widow with the means and moxie to take someone to court.

The judge neither fears God nor respects human beings, which makes him an unworthy person in Jewish eyes. When he finally acts, it is because he is afraid the widow will disgrace him. The Greek word here means to give him a black eye. This vivid image may mean the widow will make him look too corrupt in others' eyes or it may mean literally she can beat him up. The judge only gives in because her actions threaten him.

## Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

*Moses' hands grew tired.* Exodus 17:18

We all grow tired at some point in life (even kids eventually get tired of crying). When this happens, we need the support of those close to us. Ask your family to lighten another member's load in some way this week.

## Family Perspective Bud Ozar

The widow in the Gospel is praised for her Perseverance. In our homes perseverance is a critical ingredient to resolving differences and teaching lessons and skills to children. Perseverance is always an act of faith in the goodness of the other person.

## Monastic Experience Weekend

Are you a single man 18 to 40 years of age who has had the thought that your call is something bigger than yourself? Is God calling you to a deeper encounter with Him? Have you considered transcending the ordinary? St. Mary's Monastery will be holding a monastic experience weekend, November 4 to 6, in Massachusetts. Experience firsthand the balance and rhythm of prayer & community life.

Interested and would like more information? Please contact Father Gregory, 678.724.3350; monks@stmarysmonastery.org; facebook.com/stmarysmonastery.

## Bible Journey

### Week Seven

One-- Ex 34:1-35:9; Matt 27:15-31; Ps 33: 12-22; Prov 9:1-6  
Two-- Ex 35:10-36:38; Matt 27:32-66; Ps 34: 1-10; Prov 9:7-8  
Three-- Ex 37:1- 38:31; Matt 28:1-20; Ps 34: 11-22; Prov 9:9-10  
Four-- Ex 39:1-40:38; Matt 1: 1-28; Ps 35: 1-16; Prov 9:11-12  
Five-- Lev 1:1-3:17; Mark 1:29-2:12; Ps 35: 17-28; Prov 9:13-18  
Six-- Lev 4:1-5:19; Mark 2:13-3:6; Ps 36: 1-12; Prov 10:1-2  
Seven-- Lev 6:1-7:27; Mark 3: 7-30; Ps 37: 1-11; Prov10:3-4

### Week Eight

One-- Lev 7:28-9:6; Mark 3:31-4:25; Ps 37: 12-29; Prov10:5  
Two-- Lev 9:7-10:20; Mark 4:26-5:20; Ps 37: 30-40; Prov 10:6-7  
Three-- Lev 11:1-12:8; Mark 5: 21-43; Ps 38: 1-22; Prov10:8-9  
Four-- Lev 13:1-59; Mark 6: 1-29; Ps 39: 1-13; Prov10:10  
Five-- Lev 14:1-57; Mark 6: 30-56; Ps 40: 1-10; Prov10:11-12  
Six-- Lev 15:1-16:28; Mark 7: 1-23; Ps 40: 11-17; Prov10:13-14  
Seven-- Lev 16:29-18:30; Mk 7:24-8:10; Ps 41: 1-13; Prov10:15-16

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