

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

26th Sunday in OT (B)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Dn 3: 31, 29, 20, 43, 42

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:25-29

Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!

PSALM: Ps 18: 8, 10, 12-14. R.v.9

R) The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R)**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R)**

So in them your servant finds instruction; great reward is in their keeping. But who can detect all his errors? From hidden faults acquit me. **(R)**

From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin. **(R)**

SECOND READING: James 5:1-6

Your wealth is all rotting.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Jn 17:17
Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-43.45.47-48

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: 1 Jn 3:16

By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



Jesus' reply to the disciples' complaint could be taken as a description of ecumenism. "Anyone who is not against us, is for us." At the Last Supper Jesus said, "God sent his Son into the world, not to judge the world, but that through him the world might be saved." Jesus is out to win men and women for God – to get them to God, somehow! In establishing his Church, founding it "upon rock", he offered and provided in Himself "the Way", the straight and safe Way, to union and life with God. If men and women glimpse only half the truth, and seize on it, to live by it, God is delighted; but of course, He wishes them to have the whole truth; expects them to be searching for the whole truth; would like them to be safely on the 'rock'. But if, as Jesus says, they at least acknowledge him and are grateful, then they have taken first

steps on the way and Jesus welcomes them with open arms – as he did to so many non-Jews during his time on earth. In the 1930s and 50s the Movement for Moral Rearmament, not a denominational movement, though founded by a Lutheran, taught that only personal, moral goodness can change the world and that God in Christ can bring it about. The movement spread world wide, even politically, brought many to Christ and had a positive effect on world affairs.

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL FRATELLI TUTTI BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



INFORMATION WITHOUT WISDOM

47. True wisdom demands an encounter with reality. Today, however, everything can be created, disguised and altered. A direct encounter even with the fringes of reality can thus prove intolerable. A mechanism of selection then comes into play, whereby I can immediately separate likes from dislikes, what I consider attractive from what I deem distasteful. In the same way, we can choose the people with whom we wish to share our world. Persons or situations we find unpleasant or disagreeable are simply deleted in today's virtual networks; a virtual circle is then created, isolating us from the real world in which we are living.

The Still Waters of Beauty*

THE TRUE POOR (2)

The true poor are destitute of all earthly hope, for even if wealth is flowing all around them, they understand how uncertain it is. They turn to God with groaning, as they find nothing in this age they can delight in or that grips their desire. But they are held in the heavy winepress of trials and temptations, and they flow out from this as oil and wine, which signify good desires. Such people have already gone beyond their love for the earth, and now they cannot but desire God. For they come to love the One who

made heaven and earth, but they are not yet joined with him: the satisfaction is delayed that the desire might grow. So their desire is increased until it meets its object. For it is no small thing that God is in the process of giving to them, nor is their training for it a small matter, because he is not giving them something he has made, but is giving them himself, who made all.

Strive then to possess God. Live long in desire for that gift which you will have for all eternity.

*Augustine of Hippo Edited by Oliver Davies Published by New City

