

# ***Good News Daily***

**Oct. 29-Nov. 4, 2017**

## **Sunday, October 29**

Luke 10:25-37 *Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."* (v.37b NRSV)

I remember once hearing a retreat conductor express a very beautiful thought about God's love for us, so beautiful that I have never forgotten it. He said that if we could lump together all the combined love of the world—all that has been or will be of love of parents for children, of spouse for spouse, of friend for friend—it would be as a drop of water to the ocean compared to the love of God for each of us. A Sister of mine once said that Christ shows his love for us most of all by schooling us in his way of loving. His way of loving seems difficult to us mortals, for we know that his love for his Father led him to death on a Cross.

If our relationship with Jesus Christ is what it should be, then our relationship with every other human being on earth will gradually become what Christ wants it to be, regardless of the cost to our selfish needs and desires. And what does he want it to be? He tells us how that love should be expressed in today's parable of the Good Samaritan. Can we go and do likewise?

Haggai 1:1—2:9; Psalms 63, 98; Acts 18:24—19:7

**Birthdays:** Egbert Grant, Odalis Lazo and Sade' Osborne-Corbin

**Anniversaries:** None

## **Monday, October 30**

Matthew 12:43-50 *"For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."* (v.50)

During our prayer times, Christ teaches us that the most precious gift we can ever offer him is our life, our total life—all the moments of all our days. And the most good we can ever do for him, for others, and for ourselves, can best be done in obedience to his Father's will.

We mortals tend to think of doing God's will as something required of us as our duty and as something which will be painful and difficult. But as Frank Griswold wrote in *Going Home*, "God's will for us is for our deepest well-being. Our identity, our true identity, is that we are deeply, profligately, and irresponsibly loved by God." He created each of us to have fullness of life and love and joy.

As our knowledge of and our love for Him grows, we shall yearn to do all, and only all, which would be pleasing to Him. "In Jesu joying. This is full joy. This is endless joy. This is glorious joy. And it is found wherever Jesus is found" (Richard Rolle).

Zechariah 1:7-17; Psalms 41, 52; Revelation 1:4-20

**Birthdays:** Aiden Barwise-Cannicle, Sandra Harris and Eddie Perez

**Anniversaries:** None

## **Tuesday, October 31**

Matthew 13:1-9 *"Let anyone with ears listen!"* (v.9)

Bishop Richard Holloway of Scotland once wrote that God is speaking to each one of us all the time. God is continually urging us to obey some command or offering us the grace needed at the moment. I think from my own experience that the devil is, at the same time, tempting us to give in to negative, fearful, sinful thoughts, words, and acts.

C. S. Lewis, a great favorite of mine, once expressed his opinion that the devil's greatest triumph in our day has been to get us to doubt the reality of his existence, and he said he believed, "There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan."

However powerful the devil and his alluring temptations may be, our Savior, whose great love longs only for our greatest good and our greatest growth, is more powerful. "The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). We have only to respond to this great love of Christ's and to train ourselves to listen carefully for his voice.

It's a lifetime struggle to overcome our self-centeredness, but our daily times of silent listening, meditation, and prayer, and our growing faith, trust, and love for our Lord Jesus and our surrender to him and his way will gradually enable us to discern the difference between the voice of our Beloved and that of others.

Ezra 5:1-17; Psalm 45; Revelation 4:1-11

**Birthdays:** Andre Cannicle and Paul Carey

**Anniversaries:** Carl & Laurel Belnavis

## **Wednesday, November 1**

Matthew 13:10-17 *"But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear."* (v.16)

Paul once wrote to the Philippians that everything on earth is worth absolutely nothing compared to the joy of knowing, loving, and serving Christ and of being loved by him. The infinite blessings we have been given—the Holy Eucharist, the Scriptures, the Church, Communion with prayer, membership in the Body of Christ here on earth, and eternal life begun here and now—begs the question: what else ultimately matters in life at all? When Christ was here on earth he told his closest friends how blessed they were to see the things they had seen and to hear the things they had heard.

However great the blessings of those disciples, we present-day followers of God in Christ can know him even more clearly than they were able to. We can see him in our Scriptures as the longed-for Messiah, the Son of the Living God—our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend.

Ordinary sinners like us have been transformed into great saints in every generation in response to Christ's love, forgiveness, acceptance, and trust. We have

hope that we, too, can become all that Christ would have us be.

Ezra 6:1-22; Psalm 119:49-72; Revelation 5:1-10

**Birthdays:** Gloria Hanson and Patrick Officer

**Anniversaries:** Martin & Karlene Williams

### **Thursday, November 2**

Revelation 5:11—6:11 *They were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number would be complete both of their fellow servants and of their brothers and sisters, who were soon to be killed as they themselves had been killed.* (6:11)

When I read something in Scripture telling about our forebears who “were stoned to death, sawn in two, killed by the sword...destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy” (Hebrews 11:37-38), I am reminded of all the martyrs of the Church since then who have gone before us, who have paid with their lives for their faith in the living God. They were so strong in their faith, so courageous in their stand, and so blessed by their love for God.

In Hebrews 12:1, the author tells us that we—you and I—are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who remind us that we are by no means alone in our journeying home and of how vast, how tremendous, how infinitely great are the resources of the power available to those of us who believe in and trust in God (Ephesians 1:19).

Paul assures us that our Savior has promised that he will never leave us or forsake us and that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). What wondrous, awesome Good News!

Nehemiah 1:1-11; Psalm 50; Matthew 13:18-23

**Birthdays:** Alex Burrowes, Jackie Gregory and Kharovmi Wallace

**Anniversaries:** Peter & Connie D’Oench and Earnest & Mary Williams

### **Friday, November 3**

Psalm 40 *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.* (v.3a)

Years ago, I suffered a good deal from depression because of various family sorrows and because of my own inordinate self-centeredness. I was, as Paul puts it in Ephesians 2:12, without God and without hope. Today the third verse of Psalm 40: “He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God,” speaks very powerfully to me because I feel that is exactly what our Lord has done for me.

After having had some psychiatric help for depression—psychiatry played the role of St. John the Baptist in my life, the role of forerunner—I landed at the Church of the Advent in Boston. First, it was the music, then it was the preaching, and last of all, and perhaps by far the most important, it was the profound reverence and

deep devotion of the parishioners, which drew me back week after week.

Some ten years later I was drawn to our Convent, that was then at Louisburg Square on Beacon Hill in Boston. There I finally found what I had been looking for all my life: a community of loving, joyous, dedicated people who are struggling to have their first thoughts be always of Christ and then of others. I have spent by far the happiest years of my life in the Convent where our Lord has indeed “put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.”

Nehemiah 2:1-20; Psalm 54; Revelation 6:12—7:4; Matthew 13:24-30

**Birthdays:** Stephanie Ciocca, Michael Lewis, Steven Malmberg, Dorothy Remy and Sydney Young

**Anniversaries:** Cecil & Hyacinth Rhoden

### **Saturday, November 4**

Matthew 13:31-35 *“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...the smallest of all seeds.”* (vv.31-32)

Thinking about yesterday’s meditation and the new song, the song of praise to our God that our Lord has put in my mouth, I realized that a tiny little mustard seed of faith was sown in my heart the day I was baptized. It has been fed and nourished over the years by all of our Lord’s words in Scripture, by every Holy Communion service, every confession, every prayer. The visible devotion and reverence of the clergy and parishioners of the Church of the Advent and, above all, the love and prayers of my Sisters have been among the greatest blessings of my life.

My most frequent and fervent prayer these days is from a little book of prayers written by Jesuits and given me by a dear friend. In it Karl Rahner, a Jesuit priest, implores Christ: “O God, give me the courage and strength to be worthy of being called a Christian.” Our Lord has indeed put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise, thanksgiving, and joy.

Nehemiah 4:1-23; Psalm 55; Revelation 7:4-17

**Birthdays:** Forrest Belnavis, Andrew Carr, Ken Chen, Theresa Imhoff-Gannett and Devon Prawl

**Anniversaries:** Norman & Karen Allen

*by Sister Mary Michael*

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