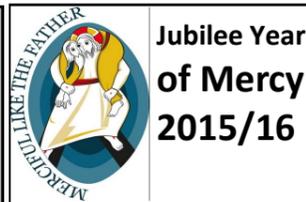


20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 August 2016

YEAR C



Jubilee Year
of Mercy
2015/16

Next Week's Readings

1st Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21
2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

RESPONSE

Lord, come to my aid!

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!



"I came to cast fire upon the earth"

Do you want to be on fire for God? Jesus shocked his disciples when he declared that he would cast fire and cause division rather than peace upon the earth. What kind of fire did Jesus have in mind here?

The fire of God's purifying love and cleansing word - The image of fire in biblical times was often associated with God and with his action in the world and in the lives of his people. The image of fire was also used as a sign of God's glory and holiness, his protective presence, and his righteous judgment and holy wrath against sin.

Fire is also a sign and symbol of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. We can see from both the Old and New Testament Scriptures that God's fire purifies and cleanses to make us clean (sins washed away) and holy (fit to offer him acceptable praise and worship), and it inspires a reverent fear (awe in God's presence) and respect (obeying and giving God his due) for God and for his holy word.

Loyalty unites - division separates - Why did Jesus link fire from heaven with costly division on the earth? Did he expect his followers to take his statement literally? Or was he intentionally using a figure of speech to emphasize the choice and cost of following him above all else? Jesus used a typical Hebrew hyperbole (a figure of speech which uses strong language and exaggeration for emphasis) to drive home an important lesson. We often do the same when we want to emphasize something very strongly. Jesus' hyperbole, however, did contain a real warning that the Gospel message does have serious consequences for our lives.

Who do you love first and foremost? - Jesus challenges his disciples to examine who they love first and foremost. A true disciple loves God above all else and is willing to forsake all for Jesus Christ. Jesus insists that his disciples give him the loyalty which is only due to God, a loyalty which is higher than spouse or kin. It is possible that family and friends can become our enemies if the thought of them keeps us from doing what we know God wants us to do. Does the love of Jesus Christ compel you to put God first in all you do (2 Corinthians 5:14)?

The Gospel message is good news for those who seek pardon, peace, and the abundant life which God offers us through his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus offers true freedom to those who believe in him - freedom from slavery to sin, Satan, and the oppressive forces of hatred and evil that can destroy body, mind, and spirit. Do you listen to the voice of your Savior and trust in his word? Commit your ways to him, obey his word, and you will find true peace, joy, and happiness in the Lord your God.

"Lord Jesus, may the fire of your love consume me and transform my life that I may truly desire nothing more than life with you. Fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit that I may always seek to please you and do your will."

Full text at www.dailyscripture.net / image from www.piercedheart.org

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

15 August 2016



Prayer to the Assumption of Mary
Father in heaven,
all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you.
In the plan of your wisdom, she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven.
May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

To celebrate this important day of obligation, there will be a Holy Mass at 9:00am & 7:30pm.

Everyone is welcome to bring flowers and put them in the Our Lady's grotto inside the church.

THANKSGIVING
CHURCH: \$ 1,912.96
PRESBYTERY: \$1,110.00
(RETIRED PRIEST & ARCHDIOCESE)



Pope Francis sends letter to the Refugee Olympic Team

Vatican City: Pope Francis has sent a letter to the 10 athletes in the Refugee Olympic Team participating in the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro where he wishes them success in their endeavours, reports Vatican Radio Aug. 8.

The pope's July 28 letter is addressed to all refugee athletes who he names individually.

"I have learned about your team and read some of your interviews so that I could get closer to your lives and your aspirations," he wrote in Spanish, which has been translated.

"Your experience serves as testimony and benefits us all. I pray for you and ask that you, please, do the same for me. God bless you," the pope added.

The Refugee Olympic Team was formed to offer hope to refugees worldwide and to bring further global attention to the magnitude of the refugee crisis, says the Olympic Games' official website. Full story at www.vatican.com



Quetta, Pakistan attack "senseless and brutal" says Pope Francis

Pope Francis has sent his condolences after the attack on the hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, which killed over 70 people.

The majority of the victims were lawyers who had gathered to mourn the assassination of the president of the Baluchistan Bar Association, Bilal Anwar Kasi, who was killed earlier in the day.

The telegram sent by the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin reads:

Deeply saddened to learn of the loss of life following the attack on a hospital in Quetta, His Holiness Pope Francis sends heartfelt condolences to the relatives of the deceased, to the authorities and to the entire nation, as he offers the assurance of his prayers for the many injured victims of this senseless and brutal act of violence. Upon all who mourn and upon all who have been affected by this tragedy, His Holiness invokes the divine gifts of consolation and strength.

Earlier the Catholic Bishop of Faisalabad, Arshad Joseph who's also the President of the Church's National Commission for Justice and Peace, condemned the bombing calling it "an inhuman gesture that cannot be tolerated." He urged the government to take action, saying "it has a duty to improve security measures" in order to guarantee the right to life of its citizens. Full text at www.vatican.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED OLOL CRAFT GROUP

Ladies with sewing and/or overlockers are needed by a group making personal hygiene items for Teenagers and Women in impoverished communities. For more details, please ring **Thea Stephensen at 97294327**

CATHOLIC CARE CHURCH APPEAL 2016
There is a special collection in all masses this weekend. Please be generous. Thank You.

Trains will not run on the Belgrave Line from **12:30pm on Saturday 20 August until 4am Monday 22 August 2016.** Scoresby Road will be closed to traffic at the level crossing from **9pm Friday 19 August until 5am Monday 22 August 2016.**

The significance of China-Vatican negotiations



After the expulsion of the Apostolic Internuncio of the Holy See to China in 1951, it can be said that the Catholic Church in China lost its communion with the universal church.

Communion with the universal church should not just be a spiritual connection, it should also be expressed through the concrete action of the Roman Pontiff appointing local bishops. But over the last 60 years this has not been understood by the Chinese government, so it has been difficult for the pope to formally appoint Chinese bishops and the communion between the church in China and the universal church has not been manifest.

After working for many years on this issue, the Catholic Church has gradually gained the reconsideration of the Chinese government, which is now willing to reach an understanding with the Holy See and seek a mutually acceptable plan.

The goal of the dialogue between the Holy See and Beijing is to strive for and protect the rightful religious freedom and rights of the China church that are written in the Chinese Constitution. The Holy See hopes to point out that the Catholic Church respects the legal sovereignty of the country, the legitimate power and responsibility of its rulers and its laws. Complete article at www.ucanindia.in

Franciscan priest steps in to fill Papua government's shoes in



Wamena: Since his posting to Papua four years ago, Franciscan Father Ivan Simamora has witnessed a gaping hole in health and education services particularly in Musatfak, an area in Jayawijaya district.

Father Simamora, who hails from Sumatra in western Indonesia, serves as the priest of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Musatfak. The priest said that he has witnessed a lack of schoolteachers and seen health clinics abandoned because there were no medical workers.

"We are very concerned about health and education services," Father Simamora told ucanews.com. "These are the two basic needs of the people here ... many state-employed teachers do not show up at schools, and medical workers are nowhere to be found. "As a result, many children cannot read or write, and sick people have to travel for hours to the district capital, Wamena to get treatment," the priest added.

"Because of these difficulties faced by the community, I have opened a health centre in the parish," the priest explained. More and more people are going there to receive medication and are very grateful for the help the church-run clinic offers. Full story at www.ucanindia.in

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE WEEK

August 22-28, 2016

"Migrants and Refugees Challenge Us: The Response of the Gospel of Mercy"

Bon Voyage

Let us all wish **Father Sebastian** for a safe trip and wonderful retreat & holiday (15 Aug—21 Sept)



ANNIVERSARIES:

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES

Hans Van Egmond, Joseph Cahalane, Jenny O'Sullivan, John Thiedeman, Anton Reinecke, Gertrude Cummins, Sylvian Hart, Catherine Crawley, Marjorie Francis, Felimon Burayag, Sabina Joyce, Harry Cripps.

SICK: Mary Edmonds, Brian Taggart, Pauline Muscat, Marta Kristan, Kala Lindsay, Geoff Bell, Stan Piergrosse