



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10 September 2017

Year A



Next Week's Readings

1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7
2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9
Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

RESPONSE

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!*

LOOSEN THOSE BONDS

Too many people sit in pain and anger after an argument – or after they hear that someone has publicly dissed them. That pain and that anger bind us. They eat up our energy, keep us from focussing on school or work, and make us toss and turn at night.

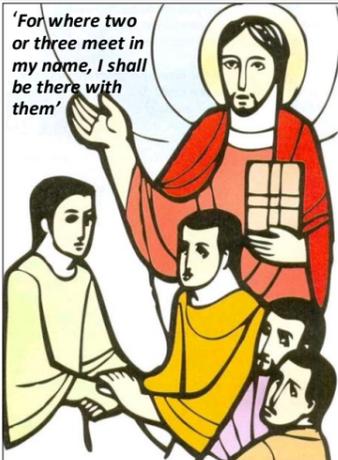
In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers a recipe for freedom – confront the person who hurt you. The early Christians sinned against one another in a variety of ways. Matthew included this teaching from Jesus, possibly as advice for them. First, talk about your conflict one on one. If that doesn't help, find an objective person who might help you work things out. If that still doesn't work, you might have to end the relationship.

You can use that advice too. When people hurt you, face them and express your feelings without attacking or insulting them. Sometimes people don't even know they've done something hurtful until you confront them. If the people who hurt you won't listen, look for someone who's objective, maybe an adult, to help mediate. Sometimes that can help.

Unfortunately, sometimes you'll come across stubborn people who just can't admit they're wrong. Rather than continue letting them hurt you, move on to other friendships. You deserve better.

This week resolve to face conflicts head on. As Jesus says, you'll not only free yourself but you'll also probably be helping the person who hurt you.

Excerpt from Gospel Connection of GPBS available at www.mailchi.mp



POPE UPHOLDS TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

By virtue of its very definition, marriage can only be between a man and a woman, Pope Francis says in

a new book-length interview, CNS reports.

"We cannot change it. This is the nature of things," not just in the Church, but in human history, he said in a series of interviews with Dominique Wolton, a 70-year-old French sociologist and expert in media and political communication.

When it comes to the true nature of marriage as well as gender, there is "critical confusion at the moment," the Pope said.

When asked about marriage for same-sex couples, Francis said, "Let's call this 'civil unions'. We do not joke around with truth."

Teaching children that they can choose their gender, he said, also plays a part in fostering such mistakes about the truth or facts of nature.

The Pope said he wondered whether these new ideas about gender and marriage were somehow based on a fear of differences, and he encouraged researchers to study the subject.

See full report available at www.cathnews.com

POPE'S SEPTEMBER INTENTION PRAYER IS FOR PARISHES (AT THE SERVICE OF THE MISSION)

Parishes must be in contact with homes, with people's lives, with the life of society.

They have to be houses where the door is always open so as to go forth toward others.

And it is important that this going-forth follows a clear proposal of faith.

The doors must be opened so that Jesus can go out with all of the joy of his message.

Let us pray for our parishes, that they not be simple offices, but that animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES

ANNIVERSARIES: Godwin Silveira, Vernon Lamb, Moira Hudson, James Dalton, Adelina Byrne, Phillip Zaneli, Jean Kilmartin, Carmel Ruys

SICK: Mary Edmonds, Pauline Muscat, Marta Kristan, Geoff Bell, Stan Piergrosse, Ted Davies, Peter Lisle



HIGH COURT CHALLENGE TO POSTAL SURVEY BEGINS

The High Court has begun hearing a challenge to the

federal government's planned voluntary postal survey on same-sex marriage, with two groups opposed to the policy arguing it has not been properly funded, ABC News reports.

Just a week before the first survey forms are sent to households, the full bench of the High Court is hearing challenges against the survey from two separate groups.

The main focus of the challenge is that Finance Minister Mathias Cormann sought to use a funding pool set aside for urgent or unforeseen matters, which could be used without parliamentary approval to pay for the \$122 million survey.

The survey was announced by the government last month, after the Senate twice rejected a compulsory plebiscite on same-sex marriage.

Full report at www.cathnews.com

INDONESIAN CHURCH BACKS DRIVE TO PROTECT WOMEN, CHILDREN

The Catholic Church in Indonesia has joined a government-sponsored awareness campaign to combat human trafficking as well as violence against women and children.

A third central aim is to promote economic justice throughout the sprawling archipelago.

Yohana Yembise, Minister of Female Empowerment and Child Protection, said on Aug. 26 that some 24 million Indonesian women face psychological and physical abuse as well as sexual violence or exploitation.

Full report at www.uncanin.in

FILIPINO NUN BRINGS HOPE TO DISASTER-SCARRED COMMUNITIES

Young Muslim girls, heads covered with scarves, run toward a lady in a brown habit who has just arrived in a refugee camp outside the besieged city of Marawi in the southern Philippines.

For two months now, Sister Betsy Espana has brought food aid to displaced families, some of the almost 400,000 people affected by armed clashes between government troops and terrorist gunmen.

The nun from Our Lady of Triumph of the Cross congregation said she wants to perform her mission "out of the spotlight," saying that she is there with the people "to serve them."

Full report at www.uncanin.in



SENIORS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, 4 October
1:30am - 2:00pm
Church Narthex

All Senior members of our Parish are welcome to a free luncheon.

This Weekend

**Priest Retirement Foundation
Father's Day Appeal 2017**
Please be generous as it will go a long way in giving our Retired and or Sick Priests a comfortable and happy retirement.

STOP LOOKING IN THE MIRROR, POPE TELLS YOUTH

Last Monday, Pope Francis told youth to steer clear of modern society's narcissistic tendencies, which he referred to as a vain "illness", CNA reports.



He said young people should instead concentrate on helping others and on developing a healthy ability to laugh at oneself.

"This culture that we live in, which is very selfish, (always) looking at yourself, has a very strong dose of narcissism, (of) contemplating oneself and ignoring others," Francis said.

In turn, narcissism "produces sadness, because you live worried about 'dressing up' your soul every day to appear better than you are, contemplating to see if you are more beautiful than others."

This is called "the sickness of the mirror," he said, and told young people to "break the mirror; don't look in the mirror, because the mirror deceives!"

Full report at www.cathnews.com

Feast of the Week

- ◆ 13 September - St John Chrysostom
- ◆ 14 September - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- ◆ 15 September - Our Lady of Sorrows
- ◆ 16 September - St Cornelius and St Cyprian

Only in SILENCE can the word of God find a home in us, as it did in Mary, the woman of the word and, inseparably, woman of silence.

~Verbum Domini (2010) 66

THANKSGIVING

Church: \$1,785.90 Priest: \$1,300.00
(Retired Priest & Archdiocese)

FORGIVE...BE FORGIVEN A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

- LUKE 6:37 NIV