



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

October 13, 2024

Take Your Pick

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The vast array of possibilities in today's world is both an extraordinary advantage because it can so enrich life and a bewildering encumbrance as we face weighty decisions. Many think that life in the past was less complicated. It might have seemed that way, but women and men have always had to face the same fundamental questions: What is life all about? To what shall I commit myself? And answering such questions has seldom been easy.

Today's first reading underscores the importance of discernment or wisdom as

we search for answers. It insists that such discernment or wisdom outstrips riches, or even health, as the goal toward which we should strive. It further assures us that in our striving for wisdom we will discover that she does not come to us alone. Rather, she brings all good things with her.

The Gospel passage tells of a young man in search of true meaning, of wisdom, of eternal life. Having valued the law and the way of life it offers a believer, he is dissatisfied. He wanted something more satisfying; something deeper. He is still struggling to discover what life is all about, to what he should commit himself. Jesus tells him that he will not find what he is looking for in his riches. Rather, he should commit himself to the welfare of others. Unfortunately, this advice was too much. He went away sad. Even knowing that he was dissatisfied with his wealth, he still would not walk away from it. †



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A Word from Pope Francis

A faith without giving...without works of charity, makes us sad in the end: just like that man who returned home "sorrowful" with a fallen countenance, even though he had been looked upon with love by Jesus in person. Today we can ask ourselves: "At what point is my faith?"

Angelus, Rome, October 10, 2021



Sunday Readings

Wisdom 7:7-11

I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.

Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword.

Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor..."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do you cling to something that cannot fulfill your deepest desires?
- Pray for the courage to commit yourself to what will make life more meaningful.

What Makes Us Happy?

Mario J. Paredes

It is the responsibility of the Church and of each Christian disciple to demonstrate, through what we believe and through what we practice, that Christ saves us. Or to say it another way, Christ makes us happy, he gives us abundant life, new life, full life, eternal life, for which we long. Christ leads us to measure our success as persons only against the true happiness we have obtained through faith in him.

If the way we live our daily lives does not make this message clear, then the Church's proclamation of salvation becomes one that no one understands or finds convincing. Moreover, if such a proclamation is clothed in the customs and language of past ages, the message of true happiness becomes one that is easily ignored. We must vigorously proclaim



this “good news” in each and every place we live and work.

As Christians, we believe that Christ saves us, he makes us happy. We believe that the question of the rich young man who asks Jesus what he should do to

obtain eternal life (happiness) is our eternal question as well. We also believe that Jesus' answer to the rich young man responds to our questions today. To find happiness, we must love and serve others, especially the most needy. (See Matthew 19:16-21.) Therefore life in Christ, as God's children and as brothers and sisters, is necessary for every person who seeks happiness. In the resurrection of Christ we confess the triumph of good, justice, mercy, and life beyond death. Through Christ, we know that God wants us to have life—and not just any kind of life, but life that is abundantly happy and truly successful, life that springs from the new commandment of love and calls us to serve one another just as God himself has loved and served us. (See John 10:10; 13:34.) †

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “Blessed John Paul I: A Smile on the Face of Christianity”
by Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR

Is there a secret formula for happiness? According to Earnie Larsen, “The two deepest desires most people have are to love and be loved and to believe they are worthwhile and know someone else believes that also. In other words, to be happy we need someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to.” Solid marriages, strong relationships with family and friends, social interaction, self-esteem, a fulfilling purpose and activity in life, faith and spirituality to provide hope and meaning, predict happiness because they include “someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to.” †

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*God of wisdom, give us the
grace to make wise choices,
to discern your call to lead the
life that will fill us with true
joy.*

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 14–19

Monday, Weekday: Gal 4:22–24, 26–27,
31–5:1 / Lk 11:29–32

Tuesday, St. Teresa of Jesus:
Gal 5:1–6 / Lk 11:37–41

Wednesday, Weekday: Gal 5:18–25 /
Lk 11:42–46

Thursday, St. Ignatius of Antioch:
Eph 1:1–10 / Lk 11:47–54

Friday, St. Luke: 2 Tm 4:10–17b / Lk 10:1–9

Saturday, Sts. John de Brébeuf,
Isaac Jogues, and Companions:
Eph 1:15–23 / Lk 12:8–12

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