

REFLECTION

For me, it's books. I just cannot get enough. Not only are there new ones that I always want to read, but I want to acquire my own copy. And I never let them go. You never know when you are going to want to re-read or consult them again. And so I need more and more bookshelves. But where is the boundary between a legitimate need for books (or whatever we are tempted to accumulate) for ministry and pleasure, and greedy acquisition?

The Gospel today shows us in parable form what the "greed that is idolatry" looks like. The author of Colossians urges us to "put to death" this vice as we "put on the new self" that is Christ. In the Scriptures, there are many texts that underscore that having riches is not sinful; it is what one does with them that determines virtue or vice. Abraham, for example, was said to be highly favored by God, because he had great flocks and herds, a large family and a great number of servants (Gn 13:2; 26:13-14).

In the Gospel story, however, the rich man with the bountiful harvest is shown to be isolated, oblivious of both God and his fellow human beings. His soliloquy reveals his self-centeredness. Rather than consult those whose lives are intertwined with his, he asks himself, "What shall I do.... I do not have space.... I shall do.... I shall tear down.... I shall store.... I shall say to myself...." The focus of his reflection is "my harvest...my barns...my grain...myself."

In a world of limited good, his solution is shocking: He will tear down his barns and build bigger ones, where he will stockpile his goods for many years. First-century Palestinians did not operate within a system of capitalism. There was no expectation that all could keep getting richer. They considered all goods limited, so that if one person acquired more, it necessarily meant that others went without. Hoarding, for them, was a clear sign of greed, the vice most destructive to community life.

The rich man's self-centered plan for stockpiling and spending for his own enjoyment is interrupted by a startling apparition by God, the only such divine intervention in a Gospel parable. "You fool!" comes the accusation, with the notice that this very night his life will be demanded. The critical question is: "All the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?" The clear biblical answer comes from Ps 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and those who live there." Everything belongs to God; even life itself is given us on loan. In the end the greedy man has no benefit from all he has acquired, and his heirs will be left haggling over it.

The parable also hints at how the miserly man will meet his end. If Jesus was addressing this parable to poor peasants, whose back-breaking labor did not result in their own benefit but only increased the riches of the landowner, their answer to the question of ownership would have a different ring. Would not the land and its fruits, which come from their toil, belong to them? Is it the peasant workers who, in an uprising, are demanding the life of the rich man?

The parable cuts two ways: to those who are blessed with abundance, hard questions are posed about legitimate use, greediness and just distribution of resources for the common good. To those on the underside of privilege, there is encouragement to take action to unmask vicious greed and to engage in efforts to bring about economic justice, while heeding an implicit warning that violence and killing are futile means for achieving just ends.

—America Magazine, July 2010

FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation Open Enrollment for new students, Kindergarten through 8th Grade continues now through September 15th. Avoid the rush and register early before classes are filled. Call the Parish Office if you have questions.

Registration forms for Communion and Confirmation for Notre Dame Students will be distributed during the first week of school.

All Faith Formation registration forms are located in the Narthex or the Parish Office. You can pick up or drop off completed forms Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM or call 447-2354 with any questions.

Youth Group Do you love to sing? Teens 7th grade through college interested in singing in the Youth Mass at 12:00 Noon are invited come to Choir Practice every Sunday at 11:15 AM in the Church. Come and share your God-given talents with your peers and community. We'd love to have you!

Love working with children? We are always looking for enthusiastic and dedicated Catechists willing to learn and deepen their faith. Faith Formation classes are held just once a week for about an hour. If interested in answering God's call, please contact Josephine at 447-2354 x 833. Ongoing training will be provided.

Catechist Ministry Day - Are you a catechist? Involved in RCIA, Youth Ministry, Parish Religious Education, Adult Faith Formation, Marriage or Sacramental Preparation, or Respect Life Ministry? Then you won't want to miss this year's Catechist Ministry Day on Saturday, September 18th, at St. Francis High School in Sacramento. The day (8a to 4p) will include powerful keynote speakers, Mass with Bishop Soto, helpful workshops, vendor tables, and a delicious lunch. Full details and online payment/registration are available online at CatechistMinistry-Day.com. Don't have access to the Internet? Call (916) 733-0123.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Week of August 1, 2010

Step One: Listen to the Word - As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What lingers in your memory?

Theme: Faith helps us set Godly priorities.

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: What is the most important thing in your life?



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Save the Date - Fabulous 50's "Bowl-A-Thon"

to benefit Notre Dame School's Scholarship Fund. Friday, August 13, 2010 at Stars Recreation Center from 1-4. Team Captains and bowlers needed! Register now - Lanes going quickly! Contact Emma McDonald at 448-7318 or Bill Bollman at 455-STAR for more information.

Notre Dame School will re-open on Wednesday, August 4th. The Dennis Uniform sale will be from 2:00 to 5:00 PM on Wednesday, August 4th. Have a great summer!



COUPLES FOR CHRIST invites you to a Christian Life Program. The orientation session is on August 8, 2010 at 1:30 PM at the St. Joseph Parish Center Meeting Room (next to the gym). This is a no-cost program for everyone - married couples, single parents, single adults, separated, widowed, and divorced. Come and learn more about this life renewal program that has touched the lives of thousands of families worldwide. Lunch and babysitting is provided. For more information, please contact Dennis & Edith Tremethick at (707) 455-8202 or tremethicks@att.net.

RCIA

- **Becoming a Catholic** - Are you interested in exploring the Catholic faith or do you know someone who has an interest?
- Please join us for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) inquiry sessions. There will be 3 sessions on consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning on September 1 and continuing on September 8 and September 15. They will be held in the Parish Center Meeting Room at 7PM.
- **Confirmation for Adults** - If you have received baptism and First Communion, but have missed confirmation, please join us for adult confirmation classes beginning 7PM in the Parish Center Meeting Room.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29,43,79-80,95,102; Mt 14:13-21
 Tues. Jer 30:1-2,12-15,18-22; Ps 102:16-23,29; Mt 14:22-36
 Wed. Jer 31:1-7; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Mt 15:21-28
 Thurs. Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:12-15,18-19; Mt 16:13-23
 Fri. Dn 7:9-10,13-14; Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28-36
 Sat. Hb 1:12-2:4; Ps 9:8-13; Mt 17:14-20
 Sun. Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1,12,18-22; Heb 11:1-2,8-19; Lk 12:32-48

SECOND COLLECTION

Catholic Communication - Help Us Connect the World with God's Word! Next Weekend - Next week's Collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Through your generous donations, CCC is able to spread the gospel message in our community and all over the world. CCC funds the development of traditional and new media programs that inspire and minister to their audiences. Half of the collection from our diocese stays here to support local communication efforts, while the other half supports national Catholic media initiatives. Please give generously in next week's Collection to help us spread the Good News. To find out more about the work of CCC, please visit www.CatholicCommunicationCampaign.org.

MISSION APPEAL

We are pleased to announce that Fr. Reginald vanSchalkwyk, from the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, South Africa, will be here this weekend, July 31/Aug 1. Please give him a warm welcome as he comes to us to talk about the work of his mission. St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622), Doctor of the Church, Patron of the Catholic Press, Patron of the Deaf, and Founder of the Sisters of the Visitation, served as a young priest-missionary to the Chablais region of his native France. Today, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales - whose unique charism in the Catholic Church is to spread the spirituality of The Gentleman Saint - continue his work in the footsteps of Our Lord Jesus Christ "to the ends of the earth." For example, in 2003, Fr. William Gore established a new foundation in the western part of Ukraine, an area where the communists inflicted their greatest persecution upon the Christian people of that country. Four years earlier, DeSales Oblates from Brazil began evangelization programs in the slums of Manta, Equador. Fr. Tom Hagan is nationally known for his apostolate among the poorest people of Haiti. For the last 50 years, Fathers Harry Schlight and Robert Hindley have labored in the Namib Desert among the poor of South Africa, especially during their years of suffering under the racist apartheid regime. Fr. Walter DeSa supports several hundred orphaned children at his mission in a new African nation - Namibia.

**SALESIAN
MISSIONS**



MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 8/2 - 7:00 AM ----- Henry Cruz, R.I.P.
 Tues. 8/3 - 7:00 AM ----- Lily Rivera, R.I.P.
 Wed. 8/4 - 8:15 AM ----- Robert Cicchetto, R.I.P.
 Thurs. 8/5 - 7:00 AM ----- Fr. Jude Ban Ngoc Nguyen, R.I.P.
 Fri. 8/6 - 7:00 AM ----- Int. of Audrey Cabrera
 Sat. 8/7 - 8:15 AM ----- Int. of Ferraro Family
 Sat. 8/7 - 5:00 PM ----- Dorothy Deramo, R.I.P.
 Sun. 8/8 - 7:00 AM ----- Members of the Parish
 Sun. 8/8 - 8:30 AM ----- Sick Members of the Parish
 Sun. 8/8 - 10:00 AM ----- Peace
 Sun. 8/8 - 12:00 PM ----- Vocations to the Priesthood