

July 5, 2015

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time (B)

After a long illness George Russ died last week. He was a lector, a member of our Parish Council and a trustee of our church. He is fondly remembered greeting children after Mass on Christmas dressed as Santa Claus. He often cleaned our white high altar and the bronze door of the tabernacle. For many years he taught classes to new immigrants so they could pass the citizenship exam. One of my best memories of George was the night when we petitioned the Yonkers City Council to vote for the building of a new library. There is a photo (taken on March 12, 1991) hanging on my living room wall showing George with students of our school, three Sisters of Charity teachers (Srs. Laura, Rhoda, and the principal, Sr. Ann Marie Lagan) cheering our victory as the resolution to authorize architect fees for the library was passed. We thought that the library would be built across the street from the church. A year later Mayor Zaleski called me to tell me that there was no money to build the library at that time but that he promised that a new library would be built in the near future probably not on South Broadway but down by the waterfront. True to his promise, a wonderful library was built near the waterfront. It was the catalyst for the revival of the waterfront and the beginning of the much awaited restoration of downtown Yonkers. When I get discouraged at the slow pace of redevelopment of Getty Square, I remember that night in 1991 when we did not give up. George was there and it remains a treasured memory. Thank you, George Russ.

Cardinal's Stewardship Appeal: we are \$1,000.00 short of our goal of \$32,000.00 if you have not made your pledge, please do so. Thank you to all our parishioners who have made their pledges.

Cemetery: After receiving the final approval from the Archdiocese and Yonkers, we will now build a columbarium at our Cemetery. More details later.

Stain Glass Windows: I have asked experts to make an evaluation of the condition of our beautiful and expensive stain glass windows. Some of the wooden frames are deteriorating. The repairs will probably be very expensive but we have no choice.

July Fourth: Don't take Alexander Hamilton off the twenty dollar bill. He was one of the four Founding Fathers who fashioned our thirteen original states into one nation. We could have easily split into three different countries.



COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, June 28, 2015 was \$3,243.00

The second collection this Sunday, July 5, 2015 will be for the Propagation of the Faith.



Monthly Food Collection: Thank you for your generosity in helping the needy in our community with your monthly food contribution.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Today's Gospel is the origin of the saying, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country". Perhaps you too have experienced rejection by those whom you think know you the best. It can be discouraging, even if you are fully confident in yourself. Certainly the Church has encountered opposition in the world, and even some within the Church- some of our best loved saints- have felt rejected by the Church. When that happens, we have Jesus as our model. Let us pray to him today for strength, whatever we may be facing.

In the first reading, Ezekiel 2:2-5: The spirit sent Ezekiel to Israel and empowered him to speak with authority. God told Ezekiel that, regardless of Israel's response, they will know that a prophet was there.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 122: "Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy."

In the second reading, 2 Corinthians 12, 7b-10: Paul confessed his weakness but also thanked God for it "for power is made perfect in weakness". Therefore, Paul humbly accepted persecution for Christ's sake.

In the Gospel, Mark 6:1-6 Jesus went to his own part of the country and began teaching. The people were incredulous. They all knew him as a child. He was one of them, how could he teach them?

Today's Focus; Faithfulness & Success: When it comes to speaking and spreading God's word in the world, the faithful service must be ours, so that the success may be given to God.

Praying with the Word: Holy Spirit of God, you are with us in our successes and in our failures, help us to remain aware of your presence always. Keep us faithful to the life to which God has called us. Amen



Pope Francis:

God's love is free. He asks for nothing in return; all he wants is for his love to be accepted.

Religious Education News:

- ❖ Registration for the 2015-2016 Religious Education classes will begin on June 15th.
- ❖ Registration will be on Mondays from 9:30 to 1:00pm and Thursdays from 9:30 to 1:00pm and Saturdays by appointment only.
- ❖ Please bring your child's birth certificate and baptismal certificate when registering your child for the first time.
- ❖ **Last day of registration will be August 13th.**
- ❖ We need teachers for our religious instruction school on Saturday mornings. Please consider volunteering for this most important mission.

