

August 2, 2015

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary time (B)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

“Laudato Si’: on Care of Our Common Home” is the title of Pope Francis’s encyclical letter, it is hardly a letter, more like a book-its length is 184 pages. I am taking most of what I write now from a review by Bill McKibben in the “New York Review of Books”.

“Laudato Si’” does indeed accomplish all the things the extensive news coverage highlighted: insist that climate change is the fault of man; call for rapid conversion of our economies from coal, oil and gas to renewable energy and reminds us that the first victims of the environmental crisis are the poor. Other religious leaders have spoken like this but their impact on world opinion falls like a pebble in a pond. Pope Francis’s words fall like a rock in this pond. His popularity within and outside the Catholic world is great. The power of celebrity is the power to set the agenda. His timing is impeccable. On those grounds alone his letter stands as one of the most influential documents of recent times. It helps greatly to consolidate the current momentum toward some kind of agreement at the global climate conference in Paris in December.

It is, therefore, remarkable to actually read the whole document and realize that it is a far more important even then that. Instead of a narrow and focused contribution to the climate debate, it turns out to be nothing less than a sweeping, radical, and highly persuasive critique of how we inhabit this planet.

Wow! I guess I have to read all 184 pages. In the meantime we have set up three very large photographs on the outside wall of the Parish Hall on niches that once held the stained glass windows of our first church. The pictures are of Pope Francis, St. Francis of Assisi and the Planet Earth as seen from outer space.

What is the correct translation of Laudato Si’ it is “Praise be to you” my Lord. It is an Umbrian phrase from St. Francis of Assisi’s 13th century ‘Canticle of the Sun’.



COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, July 26, 2015 was \$2,506.00

The second collection this Sunday, August 2, 2015 will be for the Latin America & Home Missions.

Food Collection: Please remember those in need in our community with your monthly food collection. Once again thank you for your generosity.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Jesus converses with the crowd, which badgers him for signs that he is the One sent by God. In our own times, people still long for signs, for certainty. We may not be able to give them signs, but we can pray for the grace to show them by our lives that God is indeed Lord of all. Let us make that our prayer today.

In the first reading, Exodus 16:2-4,12-15: God provides for the people; they have bread from heaven to nourish them for the journey of faith.

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 78: “The Lord gave them bread from heaven”

In the second reading, Ephesians 4:17,20-24: Paul urges the people to give up pagan ways; through faith and Baptism, they have put on Christ and must become holy as Christ is holy.

In the Gospel, John 6:24-35: Jesus proclaims that he is the bread of life. Whoever comes to him will never hunger and whoever believes in him will never thirst.

Today’s Focus; Grumble, Grumble: Like it or not, we can usually identify with people in scriptur stories when they grumble or complain. The challenge is to move beyond our grumbling to an attitude of gratitude.



Praying with the Word: Give us grateful hearts, **Lord God**, and open our eyes to the blessings that you bestow on us each day, so that our lives might be a continual song of praise to you. Amen.



Pope Frances:

When everything falls apart, only one thing sustains our hope: God loves us, he loves everyone!



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.

