

September 30, 2018
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:

Today's first reading and the Gospel reading have a lot in common and that is the motive behind the objection in the narrative readings.

In the first reading from Book of Numbers 11:25 – 29, Joshua resents the fact that the gift of prophesy is now given to many others besides Moses, but Moses himself welcomes it by disagreeing with him, "would that all the people of the Lord were prophets." (Numbers 11:29).

In the Gospel reading, John does not like the idea that someone outside the group was expelling demons and so he complained to Jesus, "Teachers, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."

Since bias (whether social, racial, or religious) is so subtle. The main point of the reading is that God's choice is not a personal privilege to be guarded jealously, rather a call to serve His people. These reading are manifestations of the fact that God has no favorite. (Acts 10,34). He chooses and uses those that please Him for His mission. It also empowers people to do good anytime and anywhere. In both readings, we see men outside the "camp and the group of disciples' prophesying and preaching in the power of the Holy Spirit; and also casting out devils in the name of Jesus respectively. We also see the zealous and envious disciples getting afraid and worried. Being afraid for their own positions and the authority of their Masters, made efforts to stop them from participating in the ministry and mission of God.

What was our Lord's practical advice for His disciples again, "Do not prevent him." There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me."

Sometimes we are threatened by the gifts or achievements of others. If only we have an open attitude we would find ourselves enriched rather than diminished by those gifts of God. The person who is different from me does not diminish me but enriches me. God bestows His gifts freely. Our responsibility is to welcome those gifts whatever they appear.

It is not out of place as we draw to the end of the month to examine our motives and pray like the Psalmist today, "Cleanse me from my unknown faults!"

Collection: The collection for last Sunday, September 23, 2018 was \$ 4,284.00

Second collection : the 2nd collection this Sunday will be our monthly Church Property Insurance collection.

Food Collection—please remember the needy in our community when shopping this week; as always we can only take non-perishable food donations. Our monthly food collection will be next Sunday . Thank you for your Generosity.

Our 2018 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal

Thanks to all the Parishioners that pledged funds for this year's Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal, your pledges and contributions help not just the Archdiocese of New York but also our Church.

Today's Focus: Using What We Have:

Our lives can get crammed so full-with busyness, possessions, material concerns-that there is little room or time left for God. Some housecleaning may be in order to free up some space for the divine.

Living and Praying with the world:

Faithful God, Creator of all, all creation is your work of art. Help me try to see your spirit in all people whom I encounter, even where the spark of your Spirit seems faint. Remove whatever gets in the way of my living Jesus, so that your light might shine brighter today.

**Parents please be aware that children are to be at the Parish Hall at 9:20 am and that classes start at 9:30 am : NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE SCHOOL AFTER 9:30 AM

October 2018:

6th No Religious Education Instruction~ Forum for Catechists day in Bronx

13th Religious Education Classes –9:20-11:00 am

20th Religious Education Classes –9:20-11:00 am~1st Parent Meeting of First Holy Communion candidates at 11:30 am in the School Cafeteria

27th Religious Education Classes –9:20-11:00 am~1st Parent Meeting of Confirmation candidates at 11:30 am in the School Cafeteria.

Mass Schedule for the week of

September 30, 2018 to October 7, 2018

Mass are daily at 8:15 and 12:05 in English and in Spanish on Thursdays at 7:00pm

Below are the Special Intentions for this week

Sunday, September 30, 2018:

7:30 am– For the Parishioners

9:00 am–Juaquim Neto

Mr. & Mrs. John DaSilva & Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Landy

11:00 am– Maria & Antonio Antao

Esther & Eduardo Rodrigues

Tuesday, October 2, 2018:

12:05 pm– Ron & Ellen Hertzman (L)

Mary Mazzeo

Wednesday, October 3, 2018:

12:05 pm– Mary & Joseph Haggerty

Bob & Chris Haggerty

Thursday, October 4, 2018:

12:05 pm– Nora Estevez (L)

Mary Mazzeo

7:00 pm- Maria Sergia Vanegas

Maria Rubio

First Friday, October 5, 2018:

12:05 pm– Mary Harding (L)

Mary Mazzeo

7:00 pm– Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, October 6, 2018:

5:00 pm– John "Bud" & Rosetta Lowder Linda Evans

7:30 pm– Legion of Mary

Sunday, October 7, 2018:

7:30 am– For the Parishioners

9:00 am– Pedro Maria Hernandez

Wife & Children

11:00 am– Manuel D. Rodrigues

Eduardo & Esther Rodrigues