

CELEBRATE SABBATH

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Dear Lord, Fill me with your gift of patient endurance
in moments of sorrow and suffering.**

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

The Israelites had not learned to rely on God even after all they had seen and experienced during their exodus from Egypt. Faced with the struggles of the desert travel, they complained against Moses and began to look back on the security and comfort in Egypt. They were slaves, but they had enough to eat and drink.....they grumbled in the desert, they failed to trust in the providence of God, who brought them out of slavery.

Today's Scripture passage from Exodus tells us that God gave gifts of manna and quail for the tired, weary, grumbling Israelites in the desert so that 'they could come to know God as their personal God'.

How much do you trust in God's providential care? What is the quality of your confidence in his loving, faithful presence in your life?

Remember: God is with you, faithfully and tenderly caring for you even when you grumble and complain and remain ungrateful.....

Psalm 78

This psalm carries for us the history of God's people from the days of Abraham. It allows us to relive the history of God's redeeming and saving activities and celebrate his forgiving, healing, compassionate and steadfast presence among His people in history and among us today.

**O my people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in parables,**

**I will utter hidden things, things from of old-
what we have heard and known,
what our fathers have told us.**

Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

This excerpt from the letter to the Ephesians, the author contrasts the life of a person before knowing and meeting Christ to the life after an encounter with Christ. The life before knowing Christ was the "old self" with many desires and needs and the life after encounter with Christ was the "new self" with new values and attitudes given over to virtues of justice, peace, and

personal holiness. After meeting Christ, a person becomes a disciple, and the disciple wears the kind of garment that the master wears.....

Our baptism gives us a new garment.....calls us to wear the new garment and bring it unstained into everlasting life. To be clothed in the baptismal garment is to be clothed in Christ and to be clothed in Christ is to become Christ, to live Christ life.

Remember: You are renewed in the spirit and have put on a new self, recreated in truth and holiness..... you must live in holiness and truth.

John 6:24-35

Last Sunday, we remembered Jesus feeding the multitude with five loaves and a couple of fish. The crowd did not fully grasp the meaning and the value of this experience. They did not come to believe in Jesus and failed to understand what Jesus was offering them. They looked for the one who gave them food to eat, the person who worked a miracle and gave them a free meal.

It is amazing to see how Jesus ministered to them even in this time of misunderstanding and used misunderstanding as opportunity to serve and to reveal the truth that he came to proclaim.

He moved them from their misunderstanding about the bread of life, about the bread that would not perish as the kind of bread their ancestors received in the desert to an understanding of the imperishable bread that would feed their soul, their heart and their mind.....that He himself was the bread of life.....

He taught them and challenged them to work for imperishable bread and they said, “Sir, give us this bread always” and he responded, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger and whoever believes in me will never thirst”. God alone will satisfy the hunger of our soul.

Saint of the day, August 4 -) St. John Vianney and 13 other saints are remembered this day.

Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney (John Vianney) was born on May 8, 1786 in Dardilly, France and was baptized the same day. As his education had been disrupted by the French Revolution, he struggled in his studies, particularly with Latin, but worked hard to learn. In 1802, the Catholic Church was reestablished in France and religious freedom and peace spread throughout the country. Unfortunately, in 1809, John was drafted into Napoleon Bonaparte's armies.

Two days into his service, John fell ill and required hospitalization. As his troop continued, he stopped in at a church where he prayed. There he met a young man who volunteered to return him to his group, but instead led him deep into the mountains where military deserters met. John lived with them for one year and two months. He used the name Jerome Vincent and opened a school for the nearby village of Les Noes' children.

John remained in Les Noes and hid when gendarmes (armed force) came in search of deserters until 1810, when deserters were granted amnesty. Now free, John returned to Écully and resumed his ecclesiastic studies. He was ordained priest on August 12, 1815 and eventually appointed parish priest of the Ars parish.

When he began his priestly duties, Fr. Vianney realized many were either ignorant or indifferent to religion as a result of the French Revolution. Many danced and drank on Sundays or worked in their fields. Fr. Vianney spent much time in confession and often delivered homilies against blasphemy and dancing. He spent 11 to twelve hours each day working to reconcile people with God. In the summer months, he often worked 16-hour days and refused to retire. His fame spread until people began to travel to him in 1827. Within thirty years, it is said that he received up to 20,000 pilgrims each year.

By 1853, Fr. Vianney had attempted to run away from Ars four times, each attempt with the intention of becoming a monk but decided after the final time that it was not to be. Six years later, he passed away on August 4, 1859 at the age of 73 and was canonized on May 31, 1925.

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