

TRINITY NEWS

JULY 11, 2010

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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – Values that Last

The Parable of the Good Samaritan at Luke 10:25-37 engages us immediately in the pathos of a deeply-human situation. It mixes good and evil in a story and declares that evil does not prevail. We will be judged before God, not only on our doctrinal purity, but also on the quality and depth of our compassion as an outcome of our faith.

Jesus the compassionate one is represented in the Samaritan, not in the Jewish religious figures. The man who was helped has no voice in the story. But what was done for him became the story-line of a persistently famous story. He is beaten like Christ is beaten, and as in the case of Lazarus he is ‘resuscitated’. As with Lazarus, what happened to the unnamed beaten man also points to the Cross and Resurrection.

There is an “eternal elusiveness” in the story. Humility is the stairway to Heaven, and compassion is written on every step.

We have to use our primary faith in Christ and its outcomes as sources of insights that direct us to the real needs of those around us. Alertness to the present moment is the key to entering situations where Christ is seen in the face of the other. It is costly to be a neighbour.

God became our neighbour in Christ. When the Samaritan looked into the face of the half-dead man, he looked into the face of Christ, whether he knew it or not. It was enormously costly for Christ to be the model of what neighbour means in the sight of God. It was costly for the Samaritan, in time and money, and he gave freely of both.

The requirements of being a true neighbour are in both the particular and the general issues for Jesus. Citizenship in the Reign of God depends on faith and the quality of our being truly a neighbour. Deserting a neighbour (“the other person”) in any situation is not behaving like a citizen of the Kingdom of God. The Reign of God is lessened in its effectiveness on earth by non-neighbourly conduct. “Generosity is giving everything from the heart with no expectations of anything in return” (Diane Cirincione). Jean Paul Sartre, the arch-advocate of radical existential freedom bereft of God, said in an interview on French television that he had revised that position somewhat when he realized that he was not free to kick a starving beggar on an Algerian street. As Keith Ward says, “There was an objective claim on his humanity”, after all.

Bishop Arthur Jones

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Next week's readings:

Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:21-29; Luke 10:38-42

THIS WEEK:

July 13, Tuesday

- Bible Study, 10am

July 15, Thursday

- Midweek Eucharist, 9:00 a.m., Chapel

July 18, Sunday

- Regular Service 7:30/9:30

The Hawkins family grieve the loss of little William (4 months) in Hongkong. Please remember: William, Nick & Alex, John & Anne and all the family.

The sudden death of a little one rips into our hearts, wounding tender feelings of love. There is also the self-emptying question of what might have been. We have extended our love and care to these dear ones.

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, Beryl Tanner, JPeter, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Ron Jacob, Ema Duhaylongsod, Cena Quiapos, Benjie Gonzales, Ted Whale Loy Solasco, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Augusto Natividad, Jovel Llagas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Johnny Manning Jr, Carrie Angus, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Janet Johnstone, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Richard Kendall, Susan Dalmas, Sunny Cabanang, Avelina Collado, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P32,116.66	P2,234,734.16	P2,025,000.00	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P12,357.10	P485,239.28	P488,076.92	P940,000.00

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com