

25th Sunday in OT_B

Readings: Wisdom 2:12,17-20; Psalm 54:3-8; James 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37

Mission Appeal Weekend at The Church of the Gesu

Greetings my sisters & brothers: my name is Father Roosevelt Leriche, the pastor of your twinned parish, Sts. Simon and Jude, in Morne Lopital, Haiti. I would like to break open the Word of God that we heard proclaimed today before sharing about the work of Sts. Simon and Jude Parish.

In our First Reading, it's like we have our ears pressed to the wall and can hear the murderous grumblings of the elders, chief priests and scribes - who last week Jesus predicted would torture and kill Him.

The Liturgy invites us to see this passage from the Book of Wisdom as a prophecy of the Lord's Passion. We hear His enemies complain that "the Just One" has challenged their authority, reproached them for breaking the law of Moses, for betraying their training as leaders and teachers. We hear chilling words that foreshadow how they will mock Him as He hangs on the cross: "For if the Just One be the Son of God, He will...deliver Him...".

Today's Gospel and Responsorial Psalm give us the other side of the First Reading. In both, we hear of Jesus' sufferings from His point of view. Though His enemies surround Him, He offers himself freely in sacrifice, trusting that God will sustain Him.

But the Apostles today don't understand this second announcement of Christ's passion. They begin arguing over issues of succession, over who among them is greatest, and who will be chosen to lead after Christ is killed.

Again they are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do. And again, Jesus teaches the Twelve -- the chosen leaders of His Church -- that they must lead by imitating His example of love and self-sacrifice. They must be "servants of all," especially the weak and the helpless - symbolized by the child He embraces and places in their midst.

This is a lesson for you and me as well. We must have the mind of Christ, who humbled himself to come among us. We must freely offer ourselves, making everything we do a sacrifice in praise of His Name.

As St. James states in our Second Reading, we must seek wisdom from above, desiring humility, not glory, and in all things to be gentle and full of mercy.

I want to thank all of you here at The Church of the Gesu for what you have done and continue to do to help the people of my mountain parish. You aid us in so many ways with the “GIFTS OF LIFE” projects! These include the lunch program at the parish school; the nurse and aide at the medical clinic (which is the only medical resource in the village); the water project which provides clean water for our community; food for the elders; and a salary for our school cook. **Thank you!!** We ask for your generous contributions today as our programs and our needs grow! We have so many needs at the parish and so few resources to meet them.

Please pray for the people of Haiti, especially for Sts. Simon and Jude Parish, as we continue to pray for you. Please be generous in the 2018 Mission Appeal Collection to continue supporting the work with which you are so closely connected in my parish. In doing this, you are living out Jesus’s message of caring for our neighbor, of having compassion for others who haven’t had all the blessings that many people in America possess.

May Almighty God bless you and reward you for your generosity. On behalf of the people of Sts. Simon and Jude Parish, our brothers and sisters in the faith, I want to say in advance *mesi, mesi anpil* - thank you, thank you very much for your support! May God bless America! May God bless Haiti! May God bless you for your generosity today!

Checks for the 2018 Mission Appeal should be made out to GESU PARISH and in the subject line, please add “MISSION APPEAL.” Envelopes are in the 9/23 bulletin and at the entrances to church. Return your check or cash donation in the designated envelope in the collection basket or you may bring it to the Parish Center. Or make use of Gesu electronic giving. Thank you very much!