

FREEDOM: GIFT AND RESPONSIBILITY

“Jesus wants us free, and this freedom - where is it found? It is to be found in the inner dialogue with God in conscience.”

– Pope Francis

SUNDAY MASS HOMILY POINTS - CYCLE C

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21: “ ...proclaim liberty to captives...to let the oppressed go free...”

- True freedom comes from the forgiveness of sins through our common baptism. Last week’s celebration of the Baptism of the Lord is profoundly connected with Jesus’ mission. For those who have been adopted by God—the grace to live in the Freedom of God’s children becomes their inheritance. Having experienced this freedom the children of God are called to share Christ’s mission for the life of the world.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 9:18-24: :If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.”

- Discipleship is about choices. The paradox is that what seems to be the most difficult and oppressive choice becomes the choice that leads to a newness of life. Jesus teaches us that having the ability to regard one’s cross as a way to freedom gives disciples the courage to take it up and follow him.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 16:1-13: “No servant can serve two masters.”

- Which master do you choose? While Jesus seems to praise the shrewd behavior of the servant, he asks us to place that same kind of shrewdness towards making very different choices. Choices that build up the body of Christ; help the poor; feed the hungry and shelter the homeless far outweigh the choice of security in this world at any cost.