

## 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – 2020

We have been Catholics for whole life. Every average Catholic would know very well some popular teachings and commands of Jesus. However, today's readings, especially the gospel, invite us to reassure that we know some basic conditions of discipleship. And by keeping Jesus' teachings, we will receive our final reward.

### Discipleship:

To be disciple of Jesus means to love God above all things; even parents, wife, husband, children are secondary; nothing can be compared with God. Jesus said: "whoever loves father, mother, son, daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Before building, sit down and figure out if you have enough resources to finish the building... Before going to war, carefully consider if you have enough troops to beat the enemies... The story of a man coming to follow Jesus tells us that the man eventually said: let me come back and bury my father first... and Jesus said: "let the dead bury the dead... but you come and follow me."

To follow Jesus means to "take up the cross" and follow; accept the cross of our daily life – whatever the hardship – and faithfully follow Jesus. He said: "whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." By saying "whoever finds his life... or loses his life," Jesus challenges us to love God above all things; love God even above one's own life. God creates us; God creates our life. Life is God to give; life is God to take away... We surrender all to God.

### Rewards:

Jesus said: whoever receives you receives me... and receives God the one who sent me...

Whoever receives a prophet/righteous-man because he is a prophet/righteous-man will receive a prophet/righteous-man's reward... What a beautiful story in the first reading today... when Elisha represents a man of God – a prophet – bringing God's reward to the faithful people...

Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple – amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward – he will receive the reward... This is the same message we have from Mt. 25: "whatsoever you do to the least of these my people, you do it unto me."

It is really challenging to us as Catholics, as disciples of Jesus; we try to do the best; we try to be faithful; we try to go to church every day or every week; we try to give to the collection; we try to participate in the parish activities, to do the work of charity... Yet, Jesus always reminds us and challenges us to be more devout, to be more active, and to be more loving... so to be sure the final reward will be ours.

Jesus promise us this reward... since we don't know what's in our life after this earthly life, we may not believe, we may not care... but Jesus assures us this reward to us, so if we believe in him, we will make our choice and live our life accordingly to his commands, and after life we will be rewarded. Jesus said: whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink... will surely not lose the reward.

### **MASS INTENTIONS** (from Sun. June 28 to Sat. July 4)

Sunday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Joseph Lee Phan (100-day death anniversary)
Monday	8 a.m.	SC ...	for repose of Kathy Sexton (birthday tomorrow June 30).
Tuesday	No Mass	.... ...	<i>for Fr. Ken Westray (repose) – his funeral today – livestreamed</i>
Wednesday	8 a.m.	SC ...	George Kerbs (for health)
Thursday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Bob Dougherty (repose)
Friday	8 a.m.	SC ...	Bill White (for health)
Saturday 7/4	8 a.m.	SC ...	thanksgiving for God's Blessings on our Nation