

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – 2020

During my years in college, every summer, I went to work with my brother to earn some money for school. He paid me very generously. My brother is a gardener, but he also does landscape and cement-work too.

Once, we got a heavy job - building a driveway for a customer. My brother and I left home early in the morning to pick up a day-laborer to work with us. Before jumping on the truck, that man didn't forget to bargain with my brother to make sure that he will be paid justly for his work day.

We came to the work place; we dug the ground, and prepared a metal frame (the rebars) to get ready for the concrete. It was about noon, working in the burning heat of a hot day in June. Realizing that there was a lot of work needed to be done before the cement truck coming in the afternoon, I told my brother that we need more helpers to get the job done. So, he went to pick up two more men to help. We all worked very hard. Eventually, we got the driveway done beautifully. All five of us worked non-stop. The hired men worked hard; but they seemed happy because they hoped to be well paid.

By the end of the day, my brother gave each hired man a sealed envelope. Then, he gave each man a \$20 bill saying: "thank you for working hard – this is for bonus." The man who worked earlier came to the other two men and asked them: "How much do you get?" All three ripped off the envelopes the same time. And the two later-hired men jumped up saying to my brother: "muchas gracias, señor!" But the earlier-hired man said to my brother: "this is not fair, señor!" You give me just the same as they get. I worked hard, and much earlier than them. My brother calmly said to him: "My friend, didn't I pay you as you agreed this morning? And even more. Why are you not happy? Why don't you thank me for the bonus? You shouldn't ask them how much they get. It's my money, isn't it? If I want to be generous to someone else, what's that to you? If you think \$20 are too little, then give it back to me."

Observing what happened, I wondered if my brother read the Bible; but he treated the hired men just the same way as we hear from the Gospel today.

Once, I spoke about this parable to some non-Catholic friends of mine. When I had finished reading the story, I could see an elderly man frowning. "They all get the same?" he asked. With disagreement, he said: "Jesus doesn't understand finances and economics."

If Jesus were named the administrator of a community or the director of a business, the institution would surely fail and go bankrupt. It seems terribly unfair, doesn't it? Even a child can see that it is not right to pay people who have worked all day in the blazing sun no more than those who have worked only an hour.

How can anyone pay someone who began working at 5:00 pm the very same wage paid to the person who has been working since early morning? Is this merely an oversight? Is Jesus' accounting wrong?

No! He does it on purpose, as he explains: "Can I not do what I want with what is mine? Or are you jealous because I am generous?"

To understand the story, we have to realize that it is not about social justice; it is about God's generosity.

We are like the late workers in the vineyard, but Jesus treat us equally. Jesus has given us generous gifts. Let us now in turn be generous and merciful just as God the Father has been generous and merciful to us all.

MASS INTENTIONS

(from Sunday, September 20 to Saturday, September 26)

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| Sunday | 8 a.m. | SC ... | Sally Frederickson (repose) |
| Monday | 8 a.m. | SC ... | Kenny Massucco (for belated birthday) |
| Tuesday | No Mass | | ... |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m. | SC ... | Janis O'Connell (for belated birthday) |
| Thursday | 8 a.m. | SM ... | Raul Boncan (repose) |
| Friday | 8 a.m. | SC ... | Russ Campi (for health) |
| Saturday | 8 a.m. | SM ... | Nick Massucco (for birthday) |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Now we are able to move indoor for Mass. From this Monday, 09/21/20, we will resume our regular Mass schedule:
- Monday, Wednesday, Friday Mass at St. Cecilia Church at 8 a.m. Thursday, Saturday Mass at St. Mary Church at 8 a.m. (except some notice for first Friday and last Saturday – please see the parish website for more details).
- Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia Church; 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary Church.
See this link for more information:
<https://www.marinij.com/2020/09/15/marin-gets-states-ok-to-continue-reopening-amid-pandemic/>
- Please join with others across the nation for the **40 Days for Life Fall Campaign**—40 days of peaceful prayer and vigil (Sept. 23 – Nov. 1, 2020), with masks and social distancing, on the public sidewalk outside the Planned Parenthood abortion business at 4th & H St. in San Rafael. Further information and participant sign-up calendar are available at <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/san-rafael/>, or contact Ruth Ann Cawley, phone 415-383-6681, email racawley60@gmail.com.