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Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time August 25, 2019

Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.

WELCOME THE STRANGER

We have become accustomed to seeing pictures in the media and stories on the news about immigrants from Latin America and refugees from Syria fleeing violence and destruction in their own countries, trying to make their way to a safe place. We have also seen the reactions of people who want to keep them away from their countries, who fail to welcome the stranger and the helpless children. Have we forgotten Jesus' call to comfort the homeless and the stranger? "They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations . . . to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD."

In the three readings for this day, we are told that we are to welcome these strangers, to welcome the discipline of the Lord, which leads to peace, and to "strive to enter through the narrow gate" into the glory of God's own homeland, the reign of God.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The wonderful diversity of life and worship among Roman Catholics of East and West is an example of God writing straight with crooked lines. The steady hand of the villainous Emperor Diocletian drew a line across Europe and Africa that split the empire in two, and for the most part determined how Christians would worship two thousand years later.

Italy's heel and the far northern city of Trieste fell on the Eastern side, and have had a form of Eastern liturgy ever since. Constantinople, which soon became the seat of the Roman Empire, became a base for Christianizing the East up to Russia and Poland. Poland was on the Eastern side, but a series of wars and medieval mayhem pushed the religious boundary back to the Ukraine, and Poland remains an outpost of the Latin Church to this day.

An old rule of thumb declared that whatever religion was observed by the local prince, the people had to follow. This gave rise to persecution and migration as people sought toleration for their expressions of faith. In the United States, we are accustomed to peaceful collaboration among Christians of East and West, a situation that challenges churches that still feel the pinch of age-old division.

St. Regina's Church Staff

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Ben Borris, Paul Jelonek

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Brothers and sisters of every race and language will be brought to Jerusalem (Isaiah 66:18-21).

Psalm — Go out to all the world and tell the Good News (Psalm 117).

Second Reading — Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees (Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13).

Gospel — People from east and west, north and south recline at table in the kingdom of God (Luke 13:22-30).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b;
Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-6; Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12ab; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab, 17;
Mk 6:17-29

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5-6, 10-12;
Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30

Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68:4-7, 10-11;
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

Jim Molitor is needing volunteers to help with the clean-up for the Bishop's visit .

Everyone's help is needed for both inside and outside work.

If you are planning to attend the luncheon for the Bishop please tell the office so we will have an idea of how many will be here . The entrée is being ordered by the church .

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday: St. Monica

Wednesday: St. Augustine

Thursday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

Deacon Moss is going to have a new class starting the second week of September. If you are interested in joining please tell Pat so he will have an idea of how many books to order.

I have posted an End of Year Fiscal Summary for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

HOW TO PRAY

Grant us grace, Almighty Father, so to pray as to deserve to be heard.

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