

## From the Pastor's Desk:

### Dear Friends:

Why is the behavior of the first son preferable to that of the second? Where in our lives do we say **Yes** to God, yet do not do his will?

Like all parables, this little story says something everybody can relate to being a parent of disobedient sons, or being a son reluctant to work in his father's business. Each listener can feel at home in the world of the story and say "**yes, this is me**". But soon the listeners realize that this is not simply an innocent, harmless story. It is really about their own lives. Jesus has proposed a new way of living and opened up new possibilities of human existence. Like the two sons, each has to make a choice to follow Jesus' invitation or not. Jesus addresses his story to the chief priests and elders of the people and scribes (Mt 21:23,45) who had questioned him about his authority. The story invites them to rethink their positions and change their attitudes towards Jesus. They understand his challenge, but refuse to change.

The priests and Pharisees like the second son, at first had said **yes** to a special relationship with God. They were the chosen people. But now when in Jesus, God challenges them to enter his kingdom, they refuse. They find reasons for themselves not to believe in him and then want everybody else to reject him too. The tax collectors and sinners however, behaved like the first son. At first they seemed to have said **no** to God by their sinful lives. But having met Jesus, they think twice about their initial answer. They repent and come to faith in Jesus. Christian readers of the parable would have imagined a third ideal possibility: to respond with a "yes" and then act accordingly. A "yes" answer should be followed by a "yes" action (Mt 5:37; James 5:12, 2Cor 1:17-19). But for anyone who initially says "no", there is always time to reflect and realize that it is the wrong answer and then to correct it with a "yes" and there after live a new life. As Christians, we said our first "yes" to God at our baptism, and we renew it at every Mass, and strengthen it by reading the Bible. But is our "yes" followed by a life of obedience and love of God and our neighbor? "Actions speak louder than words".

**God Bless You!**

### Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION:

### Catholic Christian Disciples (CCD)

**Parents, Grandparents, Friends:** "Actions speak louder than Words." Sometimes we observe children who react or speak one way but then do what was asked. They had a change of heart. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be changed by his word, for example, the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as I have done unto you."

+Family Sunday is today, October 1. All students are invited to participate in the Mass in some way. Teach your children to answer the prayers such as the Sign of the Cross, the Amen, the "and with your spirit", etc. All can be taught to sing the response refrain. They will be blessed and find joy when they participate.

+Wednesday, October 4, Fr. Lourdu will conduct a blessing of the animals around the St. Francis statue in Gilman at 5:00 p.m. In Sheldon, it will take place on the lawn at 6:30 p.m. St. Francis loved all of God's creation.

+Classes **Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Gilman:** Grades K - 5 : 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Grades 6 - 11 : 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

**Sheldon:** Grades K - 11 : 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Blessings & All Good,

*Sr. Marianna*

## OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,053.00
Loose	2 40.00
Total	1 ,293.00
Total from September 25, 2016	930.49
Building Fund	1 10.00
Hurricane Relief	6 97.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 545.00
Loose	1 30.00
Total	6 75.00
Total from September 25, 2016	5 85.00
Energy	210.00
Hurricane Relief	309.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 561.40
Loose	1 66.00
Total	7 27.40
Total from September 25, 2016	8 50.06
Votive	11.75
Energy	30.00
Hurricane Relief	361.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 500.00
Loose	5 7.00
Total	5 57.00
Total from September 25, 2016	2 22.00
Hurricane Relief	210.00

*(Totals include only the basic collection)*

## 2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment
Ss. Peter & Paul -	\$ 11,179.00
St. John -	\$ 8,721.00
St. Stanislaus -	\$ 5,249.00
St. Michael -	\$ 2,509.00

The **2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal** will be held this weekend in our parishes. The Appeal is an opportunity for us, as a faith family, to join together to do the work of the Lord. All families are encouraged to support the Appeal. By giving to the CSA, you are answering God's call to discipleship to put the work of God before your own needs. The church serves each of us in some way and our financial support is needed to continue God's work in our area. Please give generously. Thank you!

## OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

<b>KLINGBEIL LUMBER CO.</b> HARDWARE - PAINT - BUILDING MATERIALS MEDFORD, WI <b>748-4344</b> KlingbeilLumber.com
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