

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today is the thirteenth Sunday of ordinary time. This Sunday, the church calls us to be totally committed to Christ. Without "Looking back," we must freely "slaughter" all the forces, distractions, and obstacles that prevent us from serving the Lord.

The gospel brings us to the apogee of this total commitment to the Lord. Christ knew and saw the weakness of the young men who wished to follow him. He knew their struggles, as well as their distractions. Like some of us, they had "genuine intentions and excuses". They wanted to follow Christ, yet they were not ready to make the necessary sacrifice. So, seeing their predicament, Christ addressed them: "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." "Looking back" in this context has grave consequences for our Christian life and journey. It turned Lot's wife into a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26), and Judas Iscariot into a traitor. It represents all unnecessary attachments. It does not permit us to make God's call through his Son Jesus Christ, a permanent experience in our lives. One of the greatest obstacles we have today as Christians is that "our oxen" are still alive. Although we are professed Christians, our oxen are still hidden somewhere in the fabrics of our life. They represent old habits and mundane things that we are still strongly attached to. We must "slaughter" them as a sign of our total commitment to Jesus Christ or, our attention will remain divided because: "You cannot serve God and Marmon at the same time" (Lk 16:13).

So, this Sunday, the church calls us to be totally committed to Christ. Like Elisha, we must *slaughter* all the forces, obstacles, and vices such as: selfishness, materialism, immorality, and old bad habits. These make it hard for us to be committed to Christ. If we succeed in sacrificing them, we can confidently say: "O Lord, you are my portion and cup." Then, the Lord, He will definitely show us the path of life.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Jesus said "No one who sets his hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62). As priests and religious approach their day of ordination or religious vows, they are reminded of these words in their preparations for this final step. Their faithfulness to God and to their vocation moves them to act upon these words daily. As I think of Fr. Lourdu preparing to move to Phillips, I think of many ways he has been faithful to his vocation in our Cluster. At Mass, he has prayed for all of us, in his homilies he has inspired and challenged us to live as Catholics. Before Mass, he prayed the rosary. After Mass, he was waiting as a Good Shepherd to greet and embrace each of us and listen to us. I am especially grateful for his support and guidance we shared on the religious education of the students. I am grateful for all the Wednesdays that Fr. Lourdu visited each of the teachers and their classes in Gilman and Sheldon. He has given his time to families, to visit nursing homes, to funerals and to meetings. You will hear many more words of how faithful he has been as we approach his farewell celebrations. May God bless you Fr. Lourdu. We are so very grateful!

Blessings ~Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul

Adult Envelopes	\$ 973.00
Loose	121.00
Total	1,094.00
Total from June 24, 2018	443.00
Building Fund	100.00
National Concerns	55.00

St. Stanislaus

Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,035.00
Loose	37.00
Total	1,072.00
Total from June 24, 2018	620.00
National Concerns	520.00

St. John

Adult Envelopes	\$ 497.60
Loose	157.60
Total	655.20
Total from June 24, 2018	619.00

St. Michael

Adult Envelopes	\$ 345.00
Loose	90.00
Total	435.00
Total from June 24, 2018	324.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)

Called to Become Saints Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

The Annual Catholic Services Appeal is underway through out the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility is listed below. As of **June 3rd**, we have collected:

	Payments		
	Assessment	& Pledges	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$ 8,880.00	\$ 2,513.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$ 6,485.00	\$ 2,673.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$ 5,234.00	PAID IN FULL
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$ 2,789.00	PAID IN FULL

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

Nash - Jackan Funeral Homes, Inc.

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