



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee October 2021

Checking out the Harvest

The gardens are overflowing...the fields are ready for harvest. The Word of God in this season is entering the final phase of Ordinary Time. There is one main focus: Christian, what is the quality of the fruit you've produced? How has the loving gift of paschal new life been at work in you...?

The readings for October offer us several check-points: We are not to separate what God has joined together. This refers not only to marriage, but to our tendency to settle for division when love points to unifying differences. Then we are challenged to check our priorities: Our relationship with God is the central jewel in the ring of our life. Has anything been trying to displace it? Third, we are given a flashback to the suffering Servant. This invites us to check out how we roll with the constant irritations of an ordinary day, learning to brush them off with a graced "Oh, well..." while we keep our eyes on the One who has paid our whole debt. The fourth Sunday is a fast forward to victory, and a yearning for the light to brand our consciousness with the realization that we are home free. Finally, in the fifth week, we are reminded of the Great Commandment, which is all we need at the harvest time testing of our life.

It's a quick exam of fruitfulness. May your basket be filled to overflowing...!

*Holy One,
You are my fullness.
Take as your own the blossom of my loving,
And give the fruit to those who make claim on me.*



Thank you to S. Fran Hoffman for the October reflections.

October 3, 2021, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Genesis 2: 18-24; Hebrews 2: 9-11

God is the one for whom and through whom all things exist. It was with our parents' close relationship as equal partners and through their intimate union of love that God first loved us into existence. Even now, God remains deep within our inner being. In Centering Prayer may we be made mindful of God's presence which envelops us in love. Let God's love expand around us and beyond us.

October 10, 2021, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Wisdom 7: 7-11; Mark 10: 17-30

What do you value? Jesus invites us, "Go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." We hear: The kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit. Those who prefer wisdom will enjoy countless riches. What must we do? Choose wisely, live simply, reflect on the Word of God, which penetrates even between soul and spirit, and—trust! All things are possible for God.

October 17, 2021, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Isaiah 53: 10-11; Mark 10: 35-45

Jesus gave his life to bring us mercy and grace. Are you embarrassed by James and John boldly stepping forward to ask Jesus for positions of honor? Are you startled as they glibly assert that they can drink the cup of suffering? How and why do we approach Jesus? Is it only when we desperately need something? Do we aim to bring an end to situations of unjust suffering? Are we ready to be of service?

October 24, 2021, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Mark 10: 46-52

The Lord gathers His people with the blind and the lame, consoling and guiding them. Blind Bartimaeus shouts out, asking Jesus to have pity on him. When Jesus calls him, Bartimaeus springs up, goes to him and states firmly, "Master, I want to see." Bartimaeus receives his sight and instantly follows Jesus. Jesus calls us to greater insight. Do we have the faith and courage to respond whole-heartedly?

October 31, 2021, 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time—Deuteronomy 6: 2-6; Mark 12: 28b-34

Love is the Great Commandment. The Shema prayer proclaims: "Hear, O Israel!" Love of God embraces your entire person. Jesus repeats the Shema and adds a second commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus has shown us the true meaning of love. How am I growing in love? What is the quality of my relationships (with God, myself, and community)? Is there more required of me?