Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time:
Sunday August 30, 2020

Lead Story Headline:
Accept Your Cross and Follow Me

"... I know that I must be faithful and go on talking about you."
Jeremiah 20:7-9

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One day Jesus told his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem. He explained to them that in Jerusalem the chief priests and the teachers of the law would make him suffer and then would kill him. But three days later, he would be raised from the dead. Peter took Jesus aside and said to him, "This will never happen to you! God will save you." But Jesus said to Peter, "Be quiet! Stop talking like Satan! You are no help to me because you are thinking the way people think and not the way God thinks." Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "If you want to be my disciple, you must accept your cross and follow me. If you try to save your own life, you will lose it. But if you are willing to give your life for me, you will live forever."

This is the Good News of the Lord.

"If you want to be my disciple, you must accept your cross and follow me. If you try to save your own life, you will lose it. But if you are willing to give your life for me, you will live forever."

Matthew 16:24-26

What Do You Think?

1. How do you think God thinks differently than humans think?

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2. What do you think Jesus means when he tells his disciples (and us) that we must accept our cross and follow him? What do you think your cross is for in your life?

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By The Way:

Do you remember what a martyr is? A martyr is someone who dies for their faith. This is something that would be extremely challenging to do. It is believed today that around 300,000 people died for their faith in the 1st century alone! By the 20th century, millions of people had died. Why do you think people are willing to lose their life for Jesus?

Activity: Take Up Your Cross

Jesus said that his disciples should "take up [their] cross and follow [him]" (Matthew 16:24). This is what we are supposed to do too as disciples of Jesus! Look at this tricky picture and count as many crosses as you can. Write this number in the heart. You can then colour the picture!


"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect."
Romans 12:2

Now Act:

Pick someone from today's Gospel or another Bible story that you know and draw a portrait of them or write a paragraph about them! Use your imagination. What do you think they would look like? What do you think they would wear? What kinds of things do you think they like to do? Come up with some interesting ideas. Have some of your family members do the same and compare your pictures or paragraphs!

Inside Scoop: Holy Orders

Did you know that some adults don’t get married? Jesus calls them to do something else with their life instead. Think about your priest or any of the priests that you know. Instead of calling them to marriage, Jesus called them to be a priest. In order to be a priest, these men have to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders. What do you know about Holy Orders? Did you know that Jesus is a priest? He gave his life for his people, taught them, prayed with them, and healed them! Jesus made his apostles priests and gave them the Holy Spirit so that they could teach others too. Then the apostles shared this as well and chose even more people to be priests. Priests today celebrate Mass with us and act in the name of Jesus. They are not Jesus, but they try their best to follow him and help others to follow him too. They give themselves to Jesus and so they don’t get married or have kids. To become a priest, they have to get the sacrament of Holy Orders. What is your priest’s name? What kinds of special jobs does he do? Ask him sometime what he had to do to become a priest.


Let’s Pray:

"Angel sent by God to guide me, be my light and walk beside me; be my guardian and protect me; on the paths of life direct me.

Amen"


"...you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you..."

Psalm 63:1