



July 31, 2011 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Niech Bedze pochwalony
Jezus Chrystus.
R/. Na wieki, wiekow
Amen.

Praised be the Lord, Jesus Christ.

R/. Now and forever. Amen.

9:00 AM - "Hymn of Faith"

Mass Book page 63

READING I - Is 55:1-3

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM- Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.**

The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.**

The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

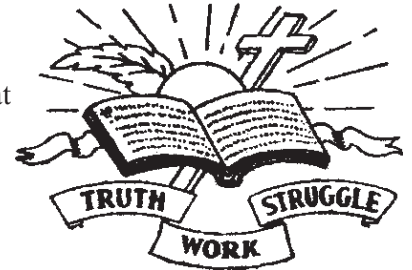
**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us;
he answers all our needs.**



READING II -

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Priest/Altar Server: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Verse. R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL - Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children. This is the gospel of the Lord.

R/: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY HYMN - "We Will Rise Again"

OUR FATHER - Mass book page 95

COMMUNION HYMN - "Down By the River"

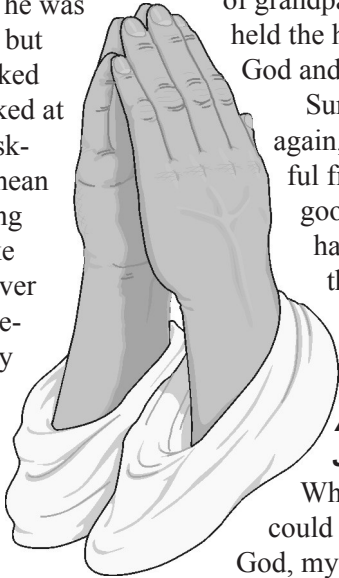
RECESSIONAL HYMN - "Let There Be Peace On Earth"

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

GRANDPA'S HANDS

Grandpa, some ninety years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if he was O.K. Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was O.K. He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice. "I didn't mean to disturb you, grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were O.K.," I explained. "Have you ever looked at your hands?" he asked me. "I mean really looked at your hands?" I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then down. "No," I replied, "I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making. Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They braced and caught my fall, when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to hold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They dried the tears of my children and caressed the love of my life. They held my rifle and wiped my tears when I went off to war. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved by someone special. They wrote the letters home and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle. Yet they were strong and sure when I dug my buddy out of a foxhole and lifted a plow off of my best friend's foot. They have held children, consoled neighbors, and shook fists in anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleaned the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else works real well, these hands of mine hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. But more importantly it will be those hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of



Christ. I will never look at my hands the same way again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandpa's hands and led him home. When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and wife I think of grandpa. I know he has been stroked and caressed and held the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel his hands upon my face."

Surely, I'll never look at hands in the same way again, especially since I learned something wonderful from my grandpa's hands. "Take a look, a really good look, at your hands and place them into the hands of the ones you love and into the hands of the one who will lead us home."

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY - Henri Nouwen

A reflection of faith & wisdom...
JESUS' LONELINESS

When Jesus came close to his death, he no longer could experience God's presence. He cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:47). Still, in love he held on to the truth that God was with him and said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46). The loneliness of the cross led Jesus to the resurrection. As we grow older we are often invited by Jesus to follow him into this loneliness, the loneliness in which God is too close to be experienced by our limited hearts and minds. When this happens, let us pray for the grace to surrender our spirit to God as Jesus did.

TASTE AND SEE THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

We hope and pray that you find a peaceful place, at St. Francis Church, in the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Always, you are most welcomed to join us in membership or remain a good friend. We welcome your thoughts, ideas, and those helping hands! Join us after Mass for coffee and a roll, time to share, care, and listen. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord! God bless and keep us on our journey...

SAVE THE DATES for
ST. FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011 - 1 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals by Father Andrew
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011 - 3 p.m.
St. Francis Fall Fundraiser Dinner.
Volunteer to help.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011
Christmas Dinner Fundraiser