

The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time/Year  
C/5/6 November 2016 – Beginning of Vocation  
Awareness Week; 5:00 PM Mass – Knights of Columbus  
Remembering their Dead/  
Honoring of Veterans;  
11:00 AM Mass – Remember Parishioners who  
Died/Buried from Our Lady of Victory since All Souls'  
2015  
(Both followed by Receptions)  
Homily –  
Our Lady of Victory Parish Community

**1st Reading:**

2 Maccabees 7:1-2; 9-14

- "We are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors." . . .  
"It was from Heaven that I received these; for the sake of his laws I disdain  
them; from him I hope to receive them again." . . . "It is my choice to die at  
the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by him; but  
for you, there will be no resurrection of life." . . . *What is it that we are willing  
to die for?*

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 17 - *Sung*

**2nd Reading:**

2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

- "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us  
and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace,  
encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word."

**GOSPEL:**

**LUKE 20:27-38**

- *What good are the concerns of the resurrection if we do not let this truth  
shape who we are NOW!?!*

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I. Did you know that, for a 2,000 square foot home . . . on average . . . it might contain up to **3,000** feet of electrical wiring? That's nearly six tenths of a mile! And, the larger the square footage, of course, the more wiring . . . with a 3,500 square foot home having roughly **one mile** of electrical wiring. Of course, that's just the part closest to us . . . beyond that wiring . . . far beyond . . . it continues . . . ultimately connected to a source we cannot see, but know is there for without it . . . that six tenths of one mile really is of little value.

Of course, when you are at home, simply enjoying it . . . I suspect that any of us ever thinks about things like this . . . Frankly, our only concerns about electrical wiring may be limited to our **need**: If in the kitchen, I need the microwave to work . . . the light to shine on what I'm doing; the refrigerator to be running. In other words, our focus isn't the amount of wiring, but the result it produces . . . when we call on it.

Kind of a metaphor of life that we so often times become entrapped in . . . especially when we think of **time** and how we use the gift of **time** God has given us . . .

Now, I am not suggesting that I . . . nor you . . . nor

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anyone I know of can add to the **24 hours** a day we have been gifted with by God . . . or the **168** hours a week those days add up to . . . but, what I am suggesting is that perhaps . . . just perhaps . . . we ought to consider a larger picture of the gift of time . . . beyond all of the tasks we become absorbed in and focused on in the **24 hours** we are gifted with . . . in the **168** hours a week we have been blessed with . . . especially since God has intentionally connected all of these precious hours to eternity . . . to life yet to be . . . to something that is endless, beyond the **hours** we mark now, in this life.

**II.** There is an element of this notion of **time** in all of the readings this weekend.

The seven brothers and their mother had a choice. They could have given in to the demands of the king . . . they could have violated their dietary laws that they held deeply as an expression of their fidelity to God and God's law . . . and they could have **lived** . . . for a time longer . . . but they would have none of that.

One by one, as they witnessed other family members being tortured and ultimately put to death for refusal to surrender something so precious as their faith in God . . .

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their trust in God . . . their loyalty to what they believed awaited them after death . . . no matter how or when death came . . . they chose **God** . . . they chose to be faithful and faith-filled, knowing that they lived during an “in-between time” . . . a gift of time given them to be lived out in ways their relationship with God would guide . . . until such measured, “in-between time” would ultimately give way to eternity . . .

And then, there is Saint Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonians . . . reminding them that it was and would always be Christ himself and God “our Father” . . . the ones who have loved “us”, that have given us . . . **gifted** us with “everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace” with which our hearts should be encouraged and strengthened in the **gift of this time** and manifest in “every good deed and word.” For Saint Paul . . . these words of encouragement are meant to remind not only the Thessalonians but, us as well, to **not waste or throw away** what we have been given in Christ Jesus . . . Yes, there will be a great deal of distractions in this life . . . in this **time** . . . that will compete for our hearts . . . our loyalty . . . our energy and faith . . . but **this time** is not eternal . . . it is purely the gift we are given to use wisely as we move toward eternity . . . as we move toward full communion with God, in Christ

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and by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps, Jesus states it most clearly . . . not denying the importance of the law . . . nor the beauty and significance of marriage . . . all of which is about how we might faithfully live out the gift of earthly **time** each of us have been given . . . until earthly **time** gives way to the eternal time God has in store for us . . . where we will not be bound by categories of any kind.

**(For the 5:00 PM Mass only):**

As we honor our Veterans this night . . . and countless Veterans living and dead throughout the country . . . and also remember those members of our Knights of Columbus who have died since last All Souls' Day . . . we recognize individuals who, in many, many ways . . . used the gift of time that God had given to them . . . to all of us . . . for noble purposes . . . not for self-gain . . . We recognize individuals who have sacrificed so that others' lives might be enriched . . . kept safe . . . so that others might use the gift of time God has given them for noble and worthy purposes as well . . . until we are joined together with God, in Christ and by the power of the Spirit for all of eternity.

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Each of us is stewards who live in this “in-between” gift of time our God has given us. Much does compete for our attention . . . there will be a great deal of distractions in this life . . . in **this time** . . . that will compete for our hearts . . . our loyalty . . . our energy and faith.

May we live in this “in-between” gift of time from God, not as if it is **the** single opportunity we will have to experience happiness and joy . . . but rather . . . the gift God has given us so that we might faithfully follow the path to a happiness and joy without end . . . to a life not measured by hours or days . . . but forever lost in eternity . . . eternity with God . . . who is the source of all that is good and right and holy . . . the source we may not necessarily see . . . but the ultimate source at the end of our current life’s journey, just the same.

**(For the 9:00 AM Mass only):**

III. In a spiritual book written by the late Anthony DeMello, a Jesuit priest from India, titled: “More One Minute Nonsense”. he records an exchange between a disciple and a master. He wrote: “My former Master taught me to accept birth and death.’ ‘Then what have you come to me for?’ asked the Master. ‘To learn to accept what lies in between.’”

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As stewards who live in this “in-between” gift of time our God has given us, much does compete for our attention . . . there will be a great deal of distractions in this life . . . in this **time** . . . that will compete for our hearts . . . our loyalty . . . our energy and faith.

May we live in this “in-between” gift of time from God, not as if it is the single opportunity we will have to experience happiness and joy . . . but rather . . . the gift God has given us so that we might faithfully follow the path to a happiness and joy without end . . . to a life not measured by hours or days . . . but forever lost in eternity . . . eternity with God . . . who is the source of all that is good and right and holy . . . the source we may not necessarily see . . . but the ultimate source at the end of our current life’s journey, just the same.

**(For the 11:00 AM Mass only):**

IV. In a spiritual book written by the late Anthony DeMello, a Jesuit priest from India, titled: “More One Minute Nonsense”. he records an exchange between a disciple and a master. He wrote: “My former Master taught me to accept birth and death.’ ‘Then what have you come to me for?’ asked the Master. ‘To learn to accept what lies in

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between.”

To the families and friends of those who have died and were buried from Our Lady of Victory this past year, you are examples of those who have been jolted into embracing this “in-between” gift of time from God . . . as the result of the death of your loved one.

Lean on the Lord . . . and on this community of faith . . . for the grace and strength God wants to bless you with . . . as you continue in the days and weeks ahead . . . to live faithfully the time God has given to **you** . . . to each of us . . . until this gift of **earthly time** gives way to eternity for you . . . for each of us . . . as well . . .

We are all stewards who live in this “in-between” gift of time our God has given us, and while much does compete for our attention . . . there will remain a great deal of distractions in this life . . . in this **time** . . . that will compete for our hearts . . . our loyalty . . . our energy and faith . . . May we all live in this “in-between” gift of time from God, not as if it is the single opportunity we will have to experience happiness and joy . . . but rather . . . the gift God has given us so that we might faithfully follow the path to a happiness and joy without end . . . to a life not measured by hours or days.