

JULY 13, 2008 – 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Seeds of Faith

Matthew 13: 1-23

The morning sun streamed through the window of Peter's house where Jesus was a guest. Peter and the others had gone off to attend to various errands and Jesus was enjoying the silence and the solitude. He studied the intense red flowers peeking up at him over the ledge of the window. The blossoms seemed to explode with color as each petal flared out to receive the full light of the sun. "What a marvel that such beauty could grow from a tiny seed!" Jesus almost said aloud.

Jesus was still considering the unleashed power contained within seeds as he decided to wander down to the lake. Perhaps Peter was there at the boat. Stepping out into the day, Jesus sensed the summer's warmth. Walking beneath the big shade trees he heard the chattering birds above him, busy in their little world. It was going to be a wonderful day!

Peter was not on the boat, so Jesus sat on one of the big flat rocks that edged the little harbor of Capernaum. He began to chat with some of the fishermen there. Word quickly spread that "the Teacher" was at the lake. Jesus was soon surrounded by so many people that he waded out to Peter's boat and climbed in. Speaking from there he began to share his thoughts:

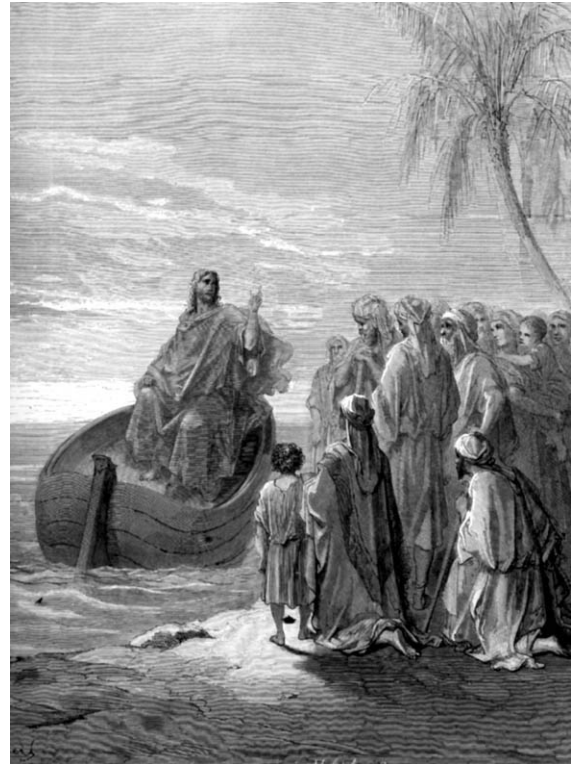
"One day a farmer went out sowing. Part of what he sowed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Part of it fell on rocky ground where it had little soil...and it began to wither for lack of roots. Part of the seed fell among the thorn bushes which grew up and choked it. Part of it landed on good soil and yielded grain at 100 or 60 or 30-fold."

Jesus continued to tell his parable stories from the platform of Peter's boat. Later in the morning most of the disciples joined the crowd on the shore. About noon Jesus blessed the crowd and sent them on their way.

That afternoon Peter invited the other disciples to share their mid-day meal out on the boat. Still chewing, with bread crumbs falling on his beard, James questioned Jesus: "Why do you speak to the crowds in parables?"

Jesus answered, "I use parables when I speak to them because they look, but do not see; they listen, but do not hear or understand."

They all sat in silence for a moment. Then Jesus reached out to put his hands on them and warmly praised them, "But blest are your eyes because they see and blest are your ears because they hear."



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The familiar parable of the sower is much more than a story about the fate of some seeds. It is about us—our past, our present and our future! As "seeds" we may have fallen on difficult ground. We may find ourselves today in need of nourishment, protection and deeper roots. The seeds of our faith need constant attention...watered with the Word, and warmed by the Son,

and constantly "weeded" by our own hard work.

-- Deacon Dick Folger

INFORMATION FOR THE COMING WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

For July 7, 2008 to July 13, 2008

Mon.	8:15 a.m.	--	Communion Service
Tue.	8:15 a.m.	--	Fr. José Leon (Intention)
Wed.	8:15 a.m.	--	Eloisa Lopez (Dec.)
Thur.	8:15 a.m.	--	Eustorgia Ojeda (Dec.)
Fri.	8:15 a.m.	--	Eloisa Lopez (Dec.)
Sat.	9:00 a.m.	--	Casey & Nicole O'Neil (Wedding Anniversary); Cresto Family (Intentions)
	5:00 p.m.	--	Elvia Hernandez (Dec.)
Sun.	6:45 a.m.	--	For Us, The Parishioners
	8:15 a.m.	--	Maria John Pitta (Dec.)
	9:45 a.m.	--	Gaudelia Martinez (Dec.)
	11:30 a.m.	--	Remy (Dec.) & Enriqueta Jacomille (Dec.)

WEEKDAY READINGS

For July 7, 2008 to July 12, 2008

Mon	Hosea 2:16,17c-18,21-22 / Matthew 9:18-26
Tues.	Hosea 8:4-7-11-13 / Matthew 9:32-38
Wed.	Hosea 10:1-3,7-8,12 / Matthew 10:1-7
Thu.	Hosea 11:1-4,8c-9 / Matthew 10:7-15
Fri.	Hosea 14::2-10 / Matthew 10:16-23
Sat.	Isaiah 6:1-8 / Matthew 10:24-33

SUNDAY READINGS

July 13, 2008 - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11 / 2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23 / Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

COLLECTIONS

For June 29, 2008

First Collection	\$7,528.50
Our budgeted goal for the First Collection (updated)	9,566.00
Second Collection: Parish Maintenance.....	2,333.00
Children's Envelopes	20.00

Thank you very much! We appreciate your support.

REMEMBER TO KEEP HIM IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- That the silent retreat that Fr. José is currently taking part in will be spiritually rewarding.
- That Fr. José's time away from the parish will be physically relaxing and refreshing.
- That Fr. José will gain new insights from this experience.

- That his “Mini-Sabbatical” over the next couple of months will give him new strength so that he can continue to serve OLR with selfless dedication.

**SUMMER LECTURE
SERIES STARTS
TODAY**
After the 8:15 Mass in the Parish Hall

NEW ARTICLES

**SUMMER LECTURE SERIES
ON THE EUCHARIST
STARTS TODAY**

Armenak Hermez’ summer lecture series on the Eucharist is starting today at 9:30 in the Parish Hall. It is being held on four consecutive Sundays. Everyone is welcome, including members of other parishes. The offering per person per session is \$7.00, which will be collected at the door.

These are the topics to be covered each week:

Biblical and Historical Development of the Mass	July 13
Structure of the Mass.....	July 20
Liturgy of the Word.....	July 27
Liturgy of the Eucharist.....	August 3

If you cannot attend all of the sessions, don’t worry – the sessions you do attend will still be meaningful to you.

We hope that you will take advantage of this convenient opportunity to deepen your faith.

Armenak has given lectures at our parish in the past, and they were very well received by those who attended them. You can read the flyer included in this Bulletin where people who have attended these lectures recount their experiences.

CCD REGISTRATION NOW BEING TAKEN FOR 2008-2009. We are registering children in grades 1 through 6 for our parish religious education program (C.C.D) during the months of **June, July and August**. For children in grades 7 and above, please contact Sheryl Bartlett, Youth Program through e-mail at sbartlett@olrchurch.org.
TO REGISTER FOR CCD, you may come to the C.C.D. office on the 2nd floor between 8:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. on any Saturday or Sunday during the months of June, July and August. If you have children who are new to the program or who are returning to the program, they must be registered before classes begin in September.
TO SPEED UP YOUR REGISTRATION, you can pick up registration forms and tuition information at the Parish Office Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., complete the forms at home, return them along with your

payment to the C.C.D. office on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Please call the Office of Religious Education at (510) 471-7419, if you have any questions.

FARISH FESTIVAL NEWS

IT'S QUIET AROUND HERE AT OLR DRING THE SUMMER, so there's no better time to plan a Festival.

The Festival Executive Bored met for the first time last week and has pretty much organized this year's festival. It does not take us long to do it, as, after all these years, we're pros at this!

Here's what you need to know:

FESTIVAL DATES: October 4 and 5.

FALL FESTIVAL DRAWING: Tickets now being printed for the drawing, and they should arrive in your mailbox the first week of August.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DRAWING: The Knights of Columbus are already poised to launch their annual drawing that they hold in conjunction with the Festival. Given the current state of the economy, the prizes this year will be hard to pass up: two prizes of \$500.00 each in Chevron Gift Cards, and another prize of \$500.00 in Safeway Gift Cards.

FIRST GENERAL MEETING: Since this is summer, no one likes to go to meetings. Our Festival Bored is now contacting the booth chair people to make sure that they are ready to take control of their posts. We will meet with them and other interested parishioners at the end of August.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS: We will put out our legendary sign-up tables in front of the Church starting the first week of August. This is where you can sign up to either chair a booth or work in a booth.

FLEA MARKET ITEMS: The container is here and we are now accepting your donations. See the flea market article under the "repeated news" section of this Bulletin.

SPONSORS: We will be mailing out letters to solicit sponsors this week. **Last year local businesses supported our festival like never before.** However, the economy went sour after last year's festival, so this year there might be less donation money available. As a result, we can use your help more than ever to build on our success – help in the form of more sponsors. If you work for a company, perhaps you could ask for it to be a sponsor. If you own your own business, perhaps you can ask yourself to sponsor a booth. A full booth sponsorship is \$150.00; the name of the sponsor is displayed in the booth and will appear in the Festival Financial Report and the Program. Sponsorships are also available in other amounts as well, like \$50.00, \$75.00, \$500.00, \$1,000 and more (for the higher amounts support is acknowledged in our advertising and on our stage). If you can help in the way of sponsors, please contact our office.

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL IN A NUTSHELL: Last year's Festival was our biggest and probably our most successful. It was also our Centennial year – that's why we made it our biggest ever. Even though our Centennial is winding down to a close, the Festival Board liked last year's festival so much that it decided to change it very little. This year's festival will have the same booths and the same layout, and might be must a teensy-weensy bit smaller.

IT IS TIME FOR SOMETHING NEW AND CURRENT, so a couple of volunteers who signed up to help with our Church website are doing some work to make it more "modern" and to keep in current. Omy Ronquillo has made some design changes to make the site more modern and easier to navigate. He, and another parishioner, Gene Arciniaga, will dedicate themselves to keeping the information on our website more current. Although the current week's Bulletins

have been posted on time, the other portions of the website were not updated frequently enough. Due to these new volunteers, this is what you can expect:

Archived Bulletins: Not only will you be able to view Parish Bulletins from the last four weeks, but previous weeks as well. Eventually we hope to include an article search feature, so that if you want to find a particular article you read in the past, you can search for it.

Latest News: This will be updated as soon as new information becomes available. This is where to check to find out information on funerals being held in the parish, or urgent news that has developed since the Sunday Bulletin was printed.

Gift Card Listings: Our listings for Gift Cards (Scrip) will be updated as significant changes develop, or at least once a year in November (this section was actually updated a few years ago – shame, shame on us!).

Mass Intentions: This section will be updated twice a month – close to the 15th and the 30th (Without any outside help, we were lucky to update it every-other month. This section must be updated more frequently, as Mass Intentions are so popular in our parish and change almost daily.).

We would like to thank Gene and Omy for offering their time and talent to help evolve this important communications tool, and Catherine Swenson and photographer Arturo Vera for laying the foundation for our website. The new design of the site is not totally evolved, and is a work-in-progress. We hope that you will visit the site at www.olrchurch.org, and visit often to see how things develop over the coming weeks and months.

ARTICLES FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

FESTIVAL FLEA MARKET: There ain't no bugs on me! That's why we need your fleas. As you probably noticed, the cargo container is now in place next to the Parish Office. This means that **WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING FLEA MARKET ITEMS.**

Remember our guidelines of the donations we can accept:

We can use:

Household items, such as kitchen pots and utensils; furniture; knick knacks; tools; appliances

Please do not bring:

Clothing and shoes; paints and cleaning products; furniture or appliances in need of repair

The Festival can use the following items:

Books for the book booth; new hand-crafted boutique items; glassware for the dime toss booth

If the container is open, place your items at the front end of the container, in front of the container. If the container is locked, place your donations near the door of the container between the Office and the container.

Thank you in advance for your support.

PRAYERS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS those in our parish and families who are ill or homebound: Susana Alcaraz, Tony Baligaya, Gladis Borges, Lindy C., Paul Cabrera, Alan Cady, Rebecca Cady, Maria Camarillo, Grace Caminada, Dionesio Campos, Daniel Canales, Rose Canales, Grace Carr, Grace Continelli, Cindy Davis, Chealsy Davis, Courtney Davis, Jennie DeCosta, Marc DelBianco, Irene Drouin, Joseph Dunbar, Ed Fiala, Rita Fregoso, Frank Gallegos, Sobeida Gallegos, Gene Garcia, Deanna Graves, Emilio Gudino, Keith Gunter, Ethel Guerrero, Jesús Gutierrez, Anne Guzman, Herm Henderson, Carme Hernandez, Eduardo Hernandez, Henry Hernandez, Margaret K., Mark Kamakea, Ermelinda Lopez, Francisco Lozano, Miguel Luviano, Sara Maas, Antonio Maciel, Catalina Manasala, Craig Manning, Ismael Martinez, Jess Martinez, Richard M. Martinez, Florence Mederios, Philip Molina, Joe Morales, Josephine Nava, Richard Nelson, Ysidro Nieves, Mirta Orellana, Mario Perales, Luz Perez, Ehren Perkins, Marcella Roderigues, Lydia Rodríguez, Joe Romero, Conor Rosado, Macca Savage, Letty Serrano, Clarence Souza, Nelly Stewart, Myron Tejada, Vivianlee Tonry, Casandra Valadez, Concepción Valencia, Isabel Villarina.



Tuesday, July 15

Bible Study, English, Eddie Dobrec Room, 10:00 a.m.

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 16

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 17

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 18

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Dinner for those in need, Eddie Dobrec Room, 6:00 p.m.

Spanish Choir Practice, Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 19

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 20

Second Collection for Summer Utilities

Exit Collection for the Catholic University and Latin America

Lecture Series on the Eucharist, English, Parish