



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 21, 2008

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHURCH

Unemployment is not a strictly modern phenomenon. In Jesus' day those who had no regular work went to the village marketplace every morning, hoping to find a day's labor in a landed man's fields or vineyards. It was a buyer's market. Day laborers worked for whatever they were given. The basic premise of Jesus' story, then, was as familiar to his first hearers as it is to us today.

The story's sting is in its tail. The logic of human justice requires that those who work a full day receive a full day's wage, while those who work one hour receive one hour's pay. It is not so in the kingdom of God. Those who have labored in the ways of righteousness from early morning receive their full reward. But the prostitutes and tax collectors and sinners who arrive at the eleventh hour receive no less. The laws of human justice are workable enough under ordinary circumstances, but, as the prophet Isaiah suggests they are too narrow to contain the always astonishing love of God.

The Church is the servant of the kingdom of God, bound by the kingdom's laws. We are commanded to invite to supper not only those who have earned a place by their long fidelity but also all those who have just arrived at the gate. The good and the respectable may grumble a bit to find themselves cheek-by-jowl at the Lord's table with sinners. But the host asks, "I am free to do as I please . . . am I not? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - If you or someone you know would like to become Catholic or know more about the Church, please call the parish office, or indicate your interest on the sign up sheet in the parish hall.

**FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIS FALL, I RECOMMEND
TOM GORNICK'S PROGRAM**

Fr. Jim

VATICAN II - A Seven Week In-Depth Course

You are invited to join others who want to:

Deepen their faith

Be able to explain their faith

Ground their spirituality by study of our Catholic tradition

Location: **St. Anthony Catholic Church**, 9905 SW McKenzie St., Tigard

Instructor: **Deacon Tom Gornick**

Dates: **Thursdays: October 2, 2008 - November 13, 2008, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Cost: \$10 - audit; \$60 - credit, plus required books. Bring your bible.

Sponsored by St. Anthony Parish in cooperation with the Archdiocesan Ministry Formation Office.

See bulletin board for details and registration forms.

FALL EMBER DAY IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24. An Ember Day is one set aside for voluntary prayer and fasting. Archbishop John G. Vlazny re-instituted Ember Days in the Archdiocese of Portland in 2002 as days set aside for fasting and prayer for victims of child sexual abuse. Archbishop Vlazny specified that Ember Days in the Archdiocese be celebrated three times each year: in the Advent season leading to Christmas, in the Lenten season before Easter and in the fall.

Parables give God room. The parables of Jesus are *not* historical allegories telling us how God acts with mankind; neither are they moral example-stories telling us how to act before God and towards one another. They are stories which shatter the deep structure of our accepted world and thereby render clear and evident to us the relativity of story itself. They remove our defenses and make us vulnerable to God. It is only in such experiences that God can touch us, and only in such moments does the kingdom of God arrive.

(John Dominic Crossan, *The Dark Interval*, Artus Communications, 1975, pp. 121-122)

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST - All children of parish schools or religious education programs K - 5 are encouraged to participate in this year's contest, which will determine the artwork featured on the cover of the Catholic Charities Christmas Card. Great prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. All entries must be submitted to the parish office by Tuesday, September 30. Entries must be submitted through the parish, not directly to Catholic Charities.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES is not a United Way agency, but please consider supporting Catholic Charities through the United Way Campaign at your place of employment this fall by designating Catholic Charities as your donor choice selection. Also, federal government employees can contribute to Catholic Charities through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC code for Catholic Charities is 15119. Your contributions help Catholic Charities assist thousands of poor and vulnerable people in our communities each year.

LITURGICAL READINGS

Today: Isaiah 55:6-9/ Psalm 145/ Philipians 1:20c-24, 27a/ Matthew 20:1-6a

Monday: Proverbs 3:27-34/ Psalm 15/ Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday: Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13/Psalm 119/ Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday: Proverbs 30:5-9/ Psalm 119/ Luke 9:1-6

Thursday: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11/ Psalm 90/ Luke 9:7-9

Friday: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11/ Psalm 144/ Luke 9:18-22

Saturday: Ecclesiastes 11:9---12:8/ Psalm 90/ Luke 9:43b-45

Sunday: Ezekiel 18:25-28/ Psalm 125/ Philipians 2:1-11/ Matthew 21:28-32

HOSPITALITY FOR NEXT WEEKEND:

9:00 am: Maryla and Greg Kaminski 11:00 am: The Nisbet Family

If you cannot fulfill your assignment, please make sure you find a substitute. Thank you.

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION: \$2,845.00 **SIMPLE SUPPER:** \$15.00 Thank you.

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY PARISH

4112 SW 6th Avenue Drive

Portland, OR 97239

(503)222-2168 * FAX (503)274-2438 * www.stelizabethportland.net

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Baptism and Anointing of the Sick: Please call the parish office.

Marriage: Six months' notice required.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. James M. Kolb, C.S.P., Administrator

Joan Enright, Secretary - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

Interested in joining St. Elizabeth Parish? Give us a call. 503-222-2168

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Matthew 20:1-16a

Today's reading from Matthew is a parable that many of us may find very irritating. Part of this is because the parable is about generosity -- not justice. We can also say that it is about salvation and not money. Pretty confusing, huh? Well, try this -- the parable is about a person's personal relationship with God and not about comparison with others. The joy (as well as the challenge) of Jesus' parables is that their true meaning comes at us from several different directions -- that is, it's found at several different levels. This one points out that we all want to be generous and want others to be generous -- at least in theory. But this may break down when someone appears to benefit more than we do. Give a little thought to how often this parable exists in our daily lives.

Where do you find yourself in the parable? Do you find yourself trying to find the unfair in every relationship?

When and where have you received grace (good fortune) far beyond your expectations?