



INTENTIONAL JESUS

Our word for the month of September is *INTENTION*, and it just blended so well with the Gospel last week where Jesus challenged would-be followers of His to look at their *INTENTIONS*.

The circumstances were that Jesus was heading toward Jerusalem. The passage says that a large crowd was following Him — it might have been like a parade. Jesus was conscious of the fact that there were some, perhaps many, among these followers who were under the misguided impression that He was marching on Jerusalem and that He was going to establish Himself as the Messiah!

Yes, He was going to establish Himself as the Messiah, but not the type of Messiah they had in mind (a military hero.) Jesus uses the occasion to address their misguided notions and to invite them to clarify their *INTENTIONS* about being His disciples. He made it quite clear what it would take to be a disciple. There would be sacrifice, hardship, and suffering in His life and in the lives of all His disciples.

Jesus wanted *INTENTIONAL* disciples not just casual followers or folks hanging on! He invited all would-be followers to be aware of what was required, and to carefully assess for themselves whether they had what it takes. He gave two short illustrations for taking inventory. I am sure He did this so that later on He wouldn't have to deal with folks coming back and saying, "We never thought it was going to be so difficult." Jesus left no illusions as to how difficult the invitation to be a disciple is!

This week, the Gospel provides us a marvelous insight into the *INTENTION* of Jesus, our Savior. The first of the three great parables — The shepherd relentlessly seeking to find the one lost sheep, willing to leave the 99 in pasture to go in search of the lost one. *Jesus' INTENTION is clear* — "I want to find all who are lost and welcome them into the Father's Kingdom!"

The next parable — The search for the lost coin — on the surface may appear very simple, and one could easily dismiss the parable asking why the big fuss over a single coin? But, there is probably a much deeper meaning to this story. Some scholars suggest that this was part of the woman's dowry. It was customary for women who were betrothed to wear a hat that had the dowry attached in the brim. Losing part of the dowry was a threat to the wedding, her whole future. No, it is not just a coin. It is a vocation. *Jesus' INTENTION is clear!*

Finally, the parable of the Prodigal son with which we are so familiar — Jesus, the Son of the Father, is the God of second chances. He is not like us. He does not cut us off because of human weakness, failure or sin. He desires to restore us to our true dignity as sons and daughters of the King. Nothing deters or distracts Him from the fulfillment of that plan. He is not going to force anyone, pressure anyone, or attempt to manipulate anyone — period! It is a free invitation!

Jesus' INTENTION is clear. What is my INTENTION? _____

Fr. Gerry

Mass Intentions

Week of: Sept. 12— Sept. 18, 2016

7:30 am Mon.: Nolen Hughes (RIP)
7:30 am Tues.: John & Eugene Gooch (RIP)
6:00 pm Wed.: Barbara Catherwood (RIP)
7:30 am Thurs.: Joseph Medicine-Crow (RIP)
7:30 am Fri.: People of the Parish
5:30 pm Sat.: Jim Ball (RIP)
8:00 am Sunday: Norman Nelson (RIP)
10:30 am Sunday: Benjie Espinoza (RIP)

Adoration This Week: Monday-Thursday: 8am-9am, 10am-12pm
Wed. 6:30 pm-7:30 pm; Fri 8am-12pm

* Need to fill Mondays 11am-12 pm. Call the church office if you are able to commit to this Holy Hour.

New Announcements

The Big Deal Youth Group will meet after 10:30 mass to kick off their year. Come hang out with your friends and meet your teachers while cheering on the Saints!!

The Women's Guild will have two meeting times on **Monday, Sept. 26th**. Meet @ **11:00am** in the Family Life Center for a lunch event. Bring your lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. **The Women's Guild** is also hosting a wine tasting and pairing in the Family Life Center at **7:00 pm**.

SAVE THE DATE! Habitat for Humanity 31st Catholic Build will be held on **October 1, 2016**. Sign up will be out next weekend in the back of church for a 4 hour morning shift or the 4 hour afternoon shift. You will also be able to sign up to provide breakfast or lunch items for the builders.

Weekly offering for Sept. 4th: \$24, 915

Thank You!

**Blessed mother flowers have been donated by Tim and Margaret Corbitt
in honor of Mother Mary.*



Stop by our bulletin board for more information on area events.

September 25th — 30th annual St. Joseph Catholic Church **GermanFest** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m

September 25th— **Holy Savior Catholic Church in Clinton** will celebrate its 50th anniversary during a celebratory Mass at 11 a.m. Sept. 25 at the church on the corner of Old Vicksburg Road and Lindale Street. Co-celebrants are Bishop Joseph Kopacz and Father Thomas McGing. A dinner on the grounds will follow. For details, call the church office at (601) 924-6344.

Join Catholic Charities at **The Journey of Hope Luncheon**, featuring guest speaker, legendary football coach and analyst for ESPN, **Lou Holtz** Wednesday, **October 5, 2016** from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Jackson Convention Complex.

Catholic Charities is also hosting a **Meet and Greet** sponsorship gathering Tuesday, **October 4, 2016** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. Tickets for Tuesday evening are \$100 per person.

For more information on these events please visit www.catholiccharitiesjackson.org or call 601-355-8634.

Prayer Intentions

Gula Guillory
Linda Russell
Jay Anne Barrett
Kevin Smith
Fr. Richard Somers
Joann Olivi Noe, aunt of Suzette Antici
Terri Ashley, friend of Maxine Miller

Rest of the Soul

Michael Rizzo, cousin of Dennis Antici
Betty Bailey, mother of Connie Graef
Gerald Rocconi, cousin of David Cannon
Annie Margaret Mauney, grandmother of Anna Morris
Frank Doddato, brother of Terry Zabaldano
Sam Skelton, great uncle of Chris Cox

Reminders

***Religious Education for ALL AGES** begins this week!
- **Adult Education & Religious Education**— Sunday, September 11th.
- **The Big Deal Youth Group**— after 10:30 mass—3:00 pm.
Wednesday night classes- 6:00 pm-8:30pm

See the website for more detailed information on previously published events.

***Time to order 2017 Offertory Envelopes.** Please fill out the form in the back of church with your request or contact Renee' Carpenter if you have any questions.

***Join our Big Deal Youth Group on Thursday, November 3rd @ 6pm for a 5K Color Race!!** Register now for the race on our website. Sponsorships and volunteers are also needed for this event. Please contact Cory Head or a member of **The Big Deal** and they can give you all the information you need.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.
Lectio Divina Mondays @ 7pm; and Tuesdays @ 10 am



Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis Holy Mass and Rite of Canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Saint Peter's Square, 4 September 2016

"Who can learn the counsel of God?" (*Wis* 9:13). This question from the Book of Wisdom that we have just heard in the first reading suggests that our life is a mystery and that we do not possess the key to understanding it. There are always two protagonists in history: God and man. Our task is to perceive the call of God and then to do his will. But in order to do his will, we must ask ourselves, "What is God's will in my life?"

We find the answer in the same passage of the Book of Wisdom: "People were taught what pleases you" (*Wis* 9:18). In order to ascertain the call of God, we must ask ourselves and understand what pleases God. On many occasions the prophets proclaimed what was pleasing to God. Their message found a wonderful synthesis in the words "I want mercy, not sacrifice" (*Hos* 6:6; *Mt* 9:13). God is pleased by every act of mercy, because in the brother or sister that we assist, we recognize the face of God which no one can see (cf. *Jn* 1:18). Each time we bend down to the needs of our brothers and sisters, we give Jesus something to eat and drink; we clothe, we help, and we visit the Son of God (cf. *Mt* 25:40).

We are thus called to translate into concrete acts that which we invoke in prayer and profess in faith. There is no alternative to charity: those who put themselves at the service of others, even when they don't know it, are those who love God (cf. *1 Jn* 3:16-18; *Jas* 2:14-18). The Christian life, however, is not merely extending a hand in times of need. If it is just this, it can be, certainly, a lovely expression of human solidarity which offers immediate benefits, but it is sterile because it lacks roots. The task which the Lord gives us, on the contrary, is the *vocation to charity* in which each of Christ's disciples puts his or her entire life at his service, so to grow each day in love.

We heard in the Gospel, "Large crowds were travelling with Jesus" (*Lk* 14:25). Today, this "large crowd" is seen in the great number of volunteers who have come together for the Jubilee of Mercy. You are that crowd who follows the Master and who makes visible his concrete love for each person. I repeat to you the words of the Apostle Paul: "I have indeed received much joy and comfort from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you" (*Philem* 1:7). How many hearts have been comforted by volunteers! How many hands they have held; how many tears they have wiped away; how much love has been poured out in hidden, humble and selfless service! This praiseworthy service gives voice to the faith and expresses the mercy of the Father, who draws near to those in need.

Following Jesus is a serious task, and, at the same time, one filled with joy; it takes a certain daring and courage to recognize the divine Master in the poorest of the poor and to give oneself in their service. In order to do so, volunteers, who out of love of Jesus serve the poor and the needy, do not expect any thanks or recompense; rather they renounce all this because they have discovered true love. Just as the Lord has come to meet me and has stooped down to my level in my hour of need, so too do I go to meet him, bending low before those who have lost faith or who live as though God did not exist, before young people without values or ideals, before families in crisis, before the ill and the imprisoned, before refugees and immigrants, before the weak and defenceless in body and spirit, before abandoned children, before the elderly who are on their own. Wherever someone is reaching out, asking for a helping hand in order to get up, this is where our presence – and the presence of the Church which sustains and offers hope – must be.

Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defence of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that "the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable". She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity; she made her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty they created. For Mother Teresa, mercy was the "salt" which gave flavour to her work, it was the "light" which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering.



Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

(Mother Teresa)

Her mission to the urban and existential peripheries remains for us today an eloquent witness to God's closeness to the poorest of the poor. Today, I pass on this emblematic figure of womanhood and of consecrated life to the whole world of volunteers: may she be your model of holiness! May this tireless worker of mercy help us to increasingly understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love, free from every ideology and all obligations, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion. Mother Teresa loved to say, "Perhaps I don't speak their language, but I can smile". Let us carry her smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet along our journey, especially those who suffer. In this way, we will open up opportunities of joy and hope for our many brothers and sisters who are discouraged and who stand in need of understanding and tenderness.

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