

The Price of Goodness

We all know genuinely good people. Somehow they are able to live the virtues of their religious tradition. It might even appear that it is easy for them to do so. One would think that such good people would be valued. Well, yes and no. While we might truly value the goodness of others, that goodness can also shame us. And there is the rub. People are uncomfortable with the realization that they are not as good as they think—or not as good as others might view them. Today's readings underscore the price we might have to pay for such goodness.

The first reading describes a plot being devised to get rid of a righteous person whose goodness has become "annoying" (Wisdom 2:12). This is not someone who flaunts goodness; it is a genuinely good person, one who is referred to as "the righteous one" (2:18). (Here "son of God" simply means someone belonging to the people of God.) The plotters insist

that God will come to the rescue if the righteous one is truly good. The petitions in the psalm response are placed on the lips of that righteous one. Like many good Bible stories, this story is open-ended. We do not know what happens. The price paid for righteousness is found in the Gospel passage as well. Here the righteous one is Jesus. Though we know how his story ends, here the disciples did not.

Today we are faced with the starkness of these stories. Are we willing to pay the price of goodness?

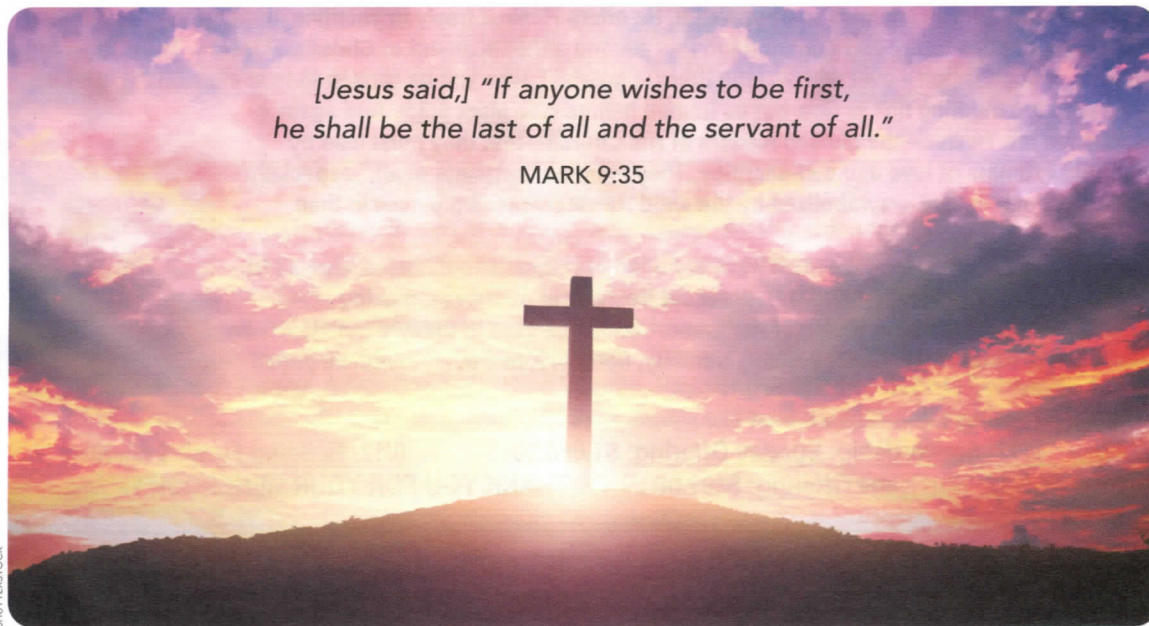
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Where in your life do your religious values conflict with social norms?*
- ★ *Do you ever resent the goodness of others? If so, what might you do about it?*

*[Jesus said,] "If anyone wishes to be first,
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."*

MARK 9:35



SHUTTERSTOCK

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 — TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In today's First Reading, it's like we have our ears pressed to the wall and can hear the murderous grumblings of the elders, chief priests, and scribes—who last week Jesus predicted would torture and kill Him (see **Mark 8:31; 10:33-34**). The liturgy invites us to see this passage from the Book of Wisdom as a prophecy of the Lord's Passion. We hear His enemies complain that "the Just One" has challenged their authority, reproached them for breaking the law of Moses, for betraying their training as leaders and teachers. And we hear chilling words that foreshadow how they will mock Him as He hangs on the Cross: "For if the Just One be the Son of God, He will . . . deliver Him . . ." (compare **Matthew 27:41-43**).

Today's Gospel and Psalm give us the flip side of the First Reading. In both, we hear of Jesus' sufferings from His point of view. Though His enemies surround Him, He offers Himself freely in sacrifice, trusting that God will sustain Him. But the Apostles today don't understand this second announcement of Christ's Passion. They begin arguing over issues of succession—over who among them is greatest, who will be chosen to lead after Christ is killed.

Again they are thinking not as God but as human beings (see **Mark 8:33**). And again Jesus teaches the Twelve—the chosen leaders of His Church—that they must lead by imitating His example of love and self-sacrifice. They must be "servants of all," especially the weak and the helpless—symbolized by the child He embraces and places in their midst.

This is a lesson for us, too. We must have the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself to come among us (see **Philippians 2:5-11**). We must freely offer ourselves, making everything we do a sacrifice in praise of His name. As James says in today's Epistle, we must seek wisdom from above, desiring humility, not glory, and in all things be gentle and full of mercy.



9/12: Stewardship: Sunday Offering: \$1,088.00

9/12: Building Fund: \$ 45.00

9/12: Hurricane Offering: \$492.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - Email—pagaines2002@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline: Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Ministries for September 26, 2021

Rosary: Adolph & Dorothy Vansa

Eucharistic Minister: Johnny Winkler

Offertory: Gary & Jodi Morgan

Lector: Jeannine Dohnalik

Ushers: Adam Dohnalik & Travis Dohnalik

Altar Servers: Camryn, Garrison, Annalee

Sanctuary Light: Sept. 20th-26th: Eleanor Motyka by Tom & Julie Motyka

Prayer Chain...Please remember in your daily prayers the faithfully departed, those souls in purgatory, those of our community that are in special need of prayer, those who are homebound or in nursing homes, all those in the military and to all those who have been affected by the Covid-19 Virus and also that the vaccine for the corona virus will help to stop this pandemic & for the following: Anton Vrazel, David Minatra, Reenie Hubnik, Kathy Hubnik, Baby Townes Bush, Carolyn Klecka, Edward Brenek, Jr., Marilyn June Gonzalez, and Doris Matocha. Prayers are powerful! To be added to the prayer chain:

Please contact: **Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net**

MARAK MASSES —September 19-26, 2021

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—9/19	10:15am	For the Religious Education Teachers & Students by St. Ann's Altar Society + Deceased Members of Phillip & Frances Hubnik Family by Cecilia Marak + Dorothy Vaculin by Margie & Jerry Wade + Mary Ann Plachy by Kevin & Anna Givens
9/22—Wed.	5:30pm	+ Joe Vansa by Norman & Evelyn Mushinski + Albina Vrazel by Richard & BJ Brenek + Annie Mae Hubnik by Martha Hubnik + Martha Hertenberger by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel
9/26 —Sunday	10:15am	+ Eugene Vaculin by Marguerite Michalka + Albert Michalka by Alfred & Bernice Vrazel + Dorothy Vaculin by Mike & Janice Marek + Mary Ann Plachy by Adolph & Dorothy Vansa

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **SEPTEMBER 22ND:** Picnic Wrap Up meeting after Mass. All Parishioners are invited to attend.
- **With the new section of the cemetery opening,** there is concerns about the way that graves are currently purchased/reserved/or assigned. There is discussion as to whether location can be reserved as opposed to being assigned the next available grave site. If anyone has any suggestions or strong feels about this issue, please make your concerns known. Contact anyone on the cemetery board. Anna Teague, Robert Plachy, Adam Dohnalik, Brad Vaculin, Raymond Jochev or George Dohnalik.
- **SEPTEMBER 19TH:** St. Joseph Catholic Church, Marlin will hold its 2021 Fall Festival. See bulletin board for more information.
- **SEPTEMBER 21ST:** KC meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Hall in Cyclone—7:30pm.
- **SEPTEMBER 26TH:** St. Joseph's Catholic Church—Cyclone—Annual Picnic—See bulletin board for more information.
- **THANK YOU—THANK YOU:** A very special blessing to all who helped in making the Annual Picnic a big Success. Thank you so much for your hard work, dedication, and donations. May the Lord continue to bless our Parish Family.

Dear Padre,

In Bible times why did people sacrifice animals, children, and other living beings for their own sins?

The practice of human and animal sacrifice is at least as old as written history, including in our own Scripture. Few stories are more chilling than when God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son, or when Jephthah sacrifices his daughter (Genesis 22; Judges 11). In scriptural theology, one's sins merited punishment and even death, but an animal or other person could be chosen to take one's place. God, in his mercy, instituted this animal sacrificial system as a symbol, foreshadowing Jesus' sacrifice for our sins (Genesis 8:20; Hebrews 10:1-18). In the New Testament, Jesus understood his mission as sacrificing his own life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was at the cost of death. However, to say that Jesus' death was payment for



our sins is not to say that a vengeful God was appeased by the sacrifice of his own innocent Son. Rather, Christ was willing to liberate us when he "bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that... by his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Thus, "it is love to the end (John 13:1) that confers on

Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus' death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice that "completes and surpasses all other sacrifices" (CCC 614).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

The Catechism firmly states that human power has limits and that "it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly." All such use and experimentation "requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation."

ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME (LAUDATO SI'), MAY 24, 2015

Calendar

Monday

SEPTEMBER 20

Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

Ezr 1:1-6

Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 21

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13

Mt 9:9-13

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 22

Weekday

Ezr 9:5-9

Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 23

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Hg 1:1-8

Lk 9:7-9

Friday

SEPTEMBER 24

Weekday

Hg 2:1-9

Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 25

Weekday

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a

Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 26

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nm 11:25-29

Jas 5:1-6

Mk 9:38-43,

45, 47-48

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