

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – B

- Clean cup/Dirty cup – which would you use?
 - Pharisee is concerned with externals of religion (*Bowing, Tassels, Washing*)
 - Jesus is concerned with internals of faith (*Care for poor, Keeping from Sin*)
- 1st reading Moses says
 - “This is law – you shall not add to them – you shall not subtract from them
 - But by Jesus’ time they had all sort of new laws
 - Where in the 10 Commandments does it say ‘wash before dinner?’
 - They’ve abandoned God’s covenant for human traditions
- Jesus says that pure worship requires:
 - (1) care for orphans, widows,
 - (2) keeping yourself unstained by the world”
 - **Love God – Love Neighbor**
- Words are interesting – especially if you want to understand scripture
 - If I said – We need to care for unemployed – you have an image (laid off person)
 - If I said – We need to care for hobos – (unemployed) but it adds meaning.
 - 2nd Reading is like that – it says “Be doers of the Word, not hearers only” (**English**)
(Greek)
HEARERS = AKROATES – people who audit a class rather than take credit for it.
ONLY people who just sit in to listen with no intention of using it
- Lectures of the time – informative & entertaining
 - (follow my favorite speaker from town to town)
 - (be seen by others) Does this describe
 - (wanted to be entertained) our Church?
 - (no intention of using what I hear)

DOERS = POIETAS – the word used for POET (carrying with it the idea of creativity)

Doing something with style – with class – with creativity

So – when we hear God’s Word and we want to apply it in our lives – **get creative!**

The Word of God was meant to be acted upon

To be DOERS of the WORD don’t be afraid to get creative in how we live it.

CCD KIDS – feed the hungry, clothe the naked

How do we be doers of Word? Benedictine Motto = ORA ET LABORA – Pray & Work.

Example of Fr. Gabriel (Aug 30 death day)

(You need both)

Once upon a time, there lived a little girl that was awfully upset.

The boy down the street had been building traps to catch birds.

“It’s OK now mummy, I took care of it.” Her daughter said:

“I remember what the priest said at church last week about God always listening to our prayers, so first I prayed that he would stop making the traps”.

“Then I prayed that the traps wouldn’t work”.

“Then I prayed that the birds would stay away from the traps”.

“Then I smashed the traps to pieces”.

Part of a healthy vibrant spiritual life includes action. (ORA ET LABORA)

Moses heard God at the burning bush. He could have spent the rest of his life praying in front of it but he had to get up, go to Egypt, and confront Pharaoh if Israel was to be free. Martin Luther King could have spent his life in prayer for an end to segregation, but it was prayer and action that bore fruit. Mother Theresa of Calcutta could have spent her life in solitary prayer, but it was prayer and action that created a ministry that now spans the globe serving the needs of the poorest of the poor.

Each of us has needs.

Some of us will see these needs and work night and day **BUT** never pray about it.
(They only focus on the outside of the cup)

Others will see these very same needs and pray, **BUT** never lift a finger to do anything.
(They only focus on the inside of the cup)

Work, combined with prayer however, adds a little ‘divine elbow grease’ – and that’s got to help.

We need to be clean on the inside and on the outside