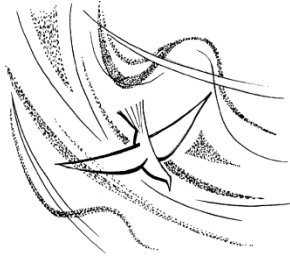


September 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Pray that you announce the Good News with good example	2 Even when things go wrong, trust that Jesus is in control	3 Bear difficulties with faith	4 Live loving kindness with all you meet
5 Have the courage to do what is right in spite of criticism	6 Let your kind words and actions proclaim God's love	7 Take time to pray with gratitude, and reflect on God's love for you	8 Uphold rather than embarrass a person	9 Be a peacemaker; with charity pursue good	10 Own your part in any conflict you encounter	11 Practice goodness in everything
12 Reach beyond your comfort zone and speak to everyone	13 Cross social boundaries and avoid labeling as enemies	14 Look for Jesus within every person you encounter	15 Make the choice to stand by the defenseless	16 In spite of criticism reach out to the suffering no matter who it is	17 Start a revolution of kindness	18 Choose to act differently from the world and its lack of values
19 Make the choice to live compassion and mercy	20 Develop your gifts and share them	21 Stand up for those who cannot speak for themselves	22 Live love and kindness and so model Jesus	23 Set hearts on fire with many acts of goodness	24 Choose to live love even in suffering rejection	25 Make an effort to listen to God's voice guiding you
26 Pay and repay everyone with goodness	27 Focus on loving everyone without distinction	28 No one is our enemy; be kind to all	29 Avoid being fake or false within; live and speak the truth	30 Share with another person something you value in yourself		



Talktime with Sr. J.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 14:25-33

September 5, 2010

Dear Friend,

“Give up everything you have...” We may balk at this statement because we wither have riches or we are barely making it. However, it is not money that Jesus speaks of today.

Jesus uses words like love, build, talk, measure (depending on the translation). These refer to what our world calls security. If we are to be followers of Jesus we are invited to make choices in which friends may disapprove because it is not what everyone is doing. It is to make decisions that our families may reject, perhaps following a religious vocation. It is an invitation to give up approval or respect.

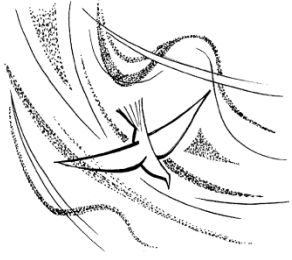
Many of us have witnessed how generous the poor can be. Revisit Haiti in your mind and you will recall how the poor reach out to those who have even less. Our ego can create a major problem for us in following Christ. We may strive to be far better than others, at least in our minds; or we desire others to look up to us and notice how well we can do things, or how well we are in “control.”

Perhaps today’s Scripture reading is a challenge for us to crush our ego and let God have power over our lives. We may even be shocked that things turn out better when we let go of the authority role and allow God influence our ministry and work.

Let us pray for each other to have the courage to let go of what feeds our pride and ego.

Peace,

Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 15:1-32

September 12, 2010

Dear Friend,

Today the contrast between the father and the older son is brought to our attention. The father lives with love and hope that his son will return and when the day comes he will be welcomed and embraced with total forgiveness. The eldest son is filled with anger and is judgmental. He believes that this brother of his has crossed a sacred boundary by squandering his inheritance on "loose living." His anger betrays his arrogance and pride. His heart has no room for forgiveness.

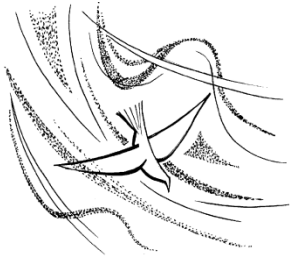
Perhaps we, too, suffer from "boundaries" we have set in our hearts. It may be that we do not want to be seen with certain people, or we dislike certain groups, and therefore refuse to support any of their proposals, even if they are good suggestions. It can be that we have allowed ourselves to think only in black and white.

If we call ourselves Christian then we need to step beyond negative social boundaries and strive, with God's help, to develop a heart that forgives and embraces everyone. If our hearts are open wide we can accept the good in everyone and everything.

Let us pray for each other that we may develop the heart of this father who can rejoice over his son returning home and getting back his life.

Peace,

Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 16:1-13

September 19, 2010

Dear Friend,

“No servant can serve two masters...” Who or what is master in our lives; or what do we consider our purpose in life? Going back to the basics in catechism we learned that we are called to know, love and serve God and be happy with God forever. The question we can ask ourselves is do we believe and live this purpose?

Many of us have lived long enough to know that when we are focused on ourselves we fail to grow as God would want us to do so. Yet, when we reach out to others in the simplest of ways we experience joy and peace.

If the nightly news is any indication of our purpose as a people we are falling short. It is up to each one of us to take to heart the challenge of today's Scripture and refocus on the purpose for which we were born.

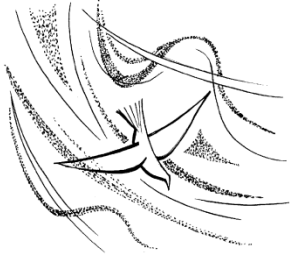
The servant seems to be forgiving and kind as he decreases the debt. However, beneath the appearance there lies a crafty and dishonest person who is only looking out for himself. Too often we are invited by circumstances to live our lives like this sneaky servant.

We are called to choose to be in God's service by living life with sincere love and kindness. We are challenged to be merciful and compassionate as well as forgiving. If we have lived to the best of our ability these virtues, then there is no doubt that our Master is God; then we will know that we have been good disciples of our one, true Master.

Let us pray for each other that we may learn to find the good in each person we encounter, even if they have made a serious mistake; then we can live in peace.

Peace,

Sr. J



Talktime with Sr. J.

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 16:19-31

September 26, 2010

Dear Friend,

It appears that the rich man in today's Gospel story allowed all his riches to desensitize him to others and their basic needs. Then he wants Abraham to give him a miracle to prove to his brothers that there are consequences for their choices. We, too, can become insensitive to the needs of others simply because we have "all" that we need. Today, God invites us to be grateful for what we have and to share goods and goodness.

Do we thank God for our blessings by reaching out to others with kindness and goodness? Often, those less fortunate are grateful to be recognized as another person who is deserving of respect and dignity; and yes, some financial help if possible.

God exists even in the poor and if we have reached the point of not taking note of their presence in our lives then it is important that we step on the brake and observe life with new eyes. Perhaps it is time that we go to a local park and listen to the voices of small children and then observe their simplicity in sharing with others without looking at the exteriors.

Children are the miracle of God's presence in the world. Have we forgotten that no matter what our age may be, we are all "children of God?"

Let us all take time to step out of our roles that prevent us from seeing the needs of others. It is up to each one of us to avoid the sin of the rich man that left him in torment. Take to heart the need to be simple as children who share goodness with everyone.

Peace,

Sr. J.

