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23rd SUNDAY O/T – September 6, 2020 YrA
Impact of our membership in the Church on our "private" lives

Life messages:

• **We are our brother's/sister's keeper**

- Modern believers tend to think that they have no right to intervene in the private lives of their fellow believers. Others evade the issue saying, "As a sinner, I don't have the moral courage or the right to correct anyone." But Jesus emphatically affirms that we are our brothers' keepers, and we have the serious obligation to correct others. We need to offer advice and encouragement to our friends, neighbours, and co-workers when it is needed, and loving correction, in private, for a personal offense where that is possible.
- We need to gather in Jesus' name and work miracles: Today's Gospel reminds us of the good we can do together, and of how we can do it. Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." If any group of us gather, work, and act with the Holy Spirit guiding us, we will become much more than simply the sum of our numbers. Today, Jesus makes it clear how important we are, one to another. One in Christ, our community can draw on God's power to make His healing, life-giving love, more effective among His people.
- The common theme of today's readings is the impact of our membership in the Church on our "private" lives. Being members of the Church means we belong to the single Body of Christ and form a community of brothers and sisters in Christ. We are, therefore, the "keepers" of our brothers and sisters, for each one of us is important to all the others in our Faith community. That is why we have to be meaningfully present to, and take responsibility for, other people. Inhuman behavior against defenceless people, like child-abuse, elder-abuse or spouse-abuse, is something about which we need to be really concerned, to the point of taking appropriate action to protect the victims. This individual responsibility in a Christian society includes, as today's readings remind us, our responsibility for each other. Perhaps the most painful obligations of watchful love are fraternal correction and generosity in forgiving and forgetting injuries.

Joke: Grandma's list: There was the grandmother celebrating her golden wedding anniversary who told the secret of her long and happy marriage. "On my wedding day, I decided to make a list of ten of my husband's faults which, for the sake of the marriage, I would overlook." A guest asked the woman what some of the faults she had chosen to overlook were. The grandmother replied, "To tell you the truth, I never did get around to making that list. But whenever my husband did something that made me hopping mad, I would say to myself, "Lucky for him that's one of the ten."

Quote: "To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement."— St. Augustine of Hippo

Recently Deceased: Angelo Vocale, *We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel. We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:*

Prayers in time of a pandemic - The Catholic Weekly

The early Christians prayed in the church of the home. Once more, in troubled times when public worship has to be restricted, we are called to pray in "the domestic church", always aware of the promise of Jesus, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." (Matthew 18:20).

In this challenging time: Lord Jesus Christ, our true physician and healer, be merciful to us and bring us your aid in these troubled times.

Heal all our sickness and every affliction of your people.

Drive out our infirmities of soul and body; free us from all disease and especially from this pestilence. We place in your gentle Heart the elderly, the frail, people with disability, children, young people and families, our indigenous peoples, those who are poor, lonely and isolated. As you walk with us, free them from fear, and give them patience and hope together with our loving care. In your mercy deal also with the causes of our pitiful condition, that in curing our lack of faith and spiritual weakness, you may also remedy our bodily ills. We place our trust in you, the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

For those who care for the sick

Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick.

When they diagnose, give them patience.

When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection.

When they work to heal, give them strength.

When they comfort, give them consolation.

When they are tired, give them rest.

When they are discouraged, bring them your hope.

May we welcome and respect them as we support one another in this time of trial.

For those seeking a cure for the virus

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.

For those who govern and represent us

Eternal Wisdom, guide our leaders called to serve us in our Nation. May they respond to the challenges of this affliction with prudence and sound judgement. With foresight, may their planning alleviate the economic burdens, compensate for losses, protect employment and ensure ample food for the poor and isolated. **Amen.**

For humility Merciful Lord, we stand before you in our human weakness.

We confess that we have been caught up in the pride and presumption that drives our worldly society. Free us from the arrogance that afflicts our age, for now we stand confounded by conditions beyond our control or understanding. Give us humble and honest hearts to discern the greater mystery of your providence in creation. May we accept your justice and trust your redeeming mercy. **Amen**