

# ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

Fort Yuma, California, P. O. Box 1176, Winterhaven, CA 92283 Tel: 760-572-0283

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**  
**October 18, 2020 — MISSION SUNDAY**

**Website:** [www.stthomasindianmission.org](http://www.stthomasindianmission.org)  
**Email:** [saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com](mailto:saintthomasindianmission@gmail.com)  
**Pastor:** Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa

**Our Sunday Masses are celebrated outdoors, for the time being, on Saturdays at 6:00 PM and on Sundays at 7:30 AM, in the PARKING AREA by the Parish Hall.**

**Please come in a face mask and observe social distancing** (6 feet between people of different households) before, during, and after the Mass. Holy Communion is to be given only after the Final Blessing, in the hand.

**Persons with disability**, please arrive early so that before the Mass starts you can park your cars on the alley on the side of the church (between the church and Quechan Drive). People of any age with serious underlying medical conditions or are feeling ill in any way are urged, in the strongest sense, to remain at home.

## **Gospel Reading:**

**Matthew 22:15-21**

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."  
***The Gospel of the Lord.***

## **This Week's Saints:**

**Oct. 19 (Mon): St. John de Brebeuf and St. Isaac Jogues (priests and martyrs), and companions (martyrs) –** martyred in the USA and Canada between 1642 and 1649.  
**Oct 20 (Tue): St. Paul of the Cross, priest (1694-1775)** Born in Italy, founded an order dedicated to the passion of the Lord, the Passionists.  
**Oct. 22 (Thu): St. John Paul II, pope (1920-2005).**  
**Oct. 23 (Fri): St. John of Capistrano, priest (1386-1456).**  
**Oct. 24 (Sat): St. Anthony Mary Claret, bishop (1807-1870).** Born in Spain, founder of the Claretian Fathers.

## **1st Reading:**

**Isaiah 45:1, 4-6**

Thus, says the Lord to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations before him, and making kings run in his service, opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred: For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel, my chosen one, I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. I am the Lord and there is no other, there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides me. I am the Lord, there is no other.  
***The Word of the Lord.***

## **Responsorial Psalm:**

### **Our Response:**

**Give the Lord glory and honor. (Repeat)**

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. **R.**

For great is the Lord and highly to be praised; awesome is he, beyond all gods. For all the gods of the nations are things of naught, but the Lord made the heavens. **R.**

Give to the Lord, you families of nations, give to the Lord glory and praise; give to the Lord the glory due his name! Bring gifts, and enter his courts. **R.**

Worship the Lord, in holy attire; tremble before him, all the earth; say among the nations: The Lord is king, he governs the peoples with equity. **R.**

## **2nd Reading:**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God, how you were chosen. For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction.  
***The Word of the Lord.***

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.** Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life.  
**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## REFLECTING ON THE WORD . . . . GUIDEPPOSTS

### INTRODUCTION

Today's readings continue our reflection on who God is and what God expects of us. How does our faith relate to other important commitments we have, such as law, politics, etc. And who is this God in whom we believe? Jesus confronted these questions, and his answer is unambiguous and risky. How do we answer the questions in our own lives?

### **ALL THINGS, ULTIMATELY, ARE GOD'S.**

Nothing in life really belongs to us. Thus, in order to be in God for eternity, we must surrender everything. Such is the overall message articulated in today's first reading and gospel.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah declares that Cyrus — the emperor of Persia (Iran of today), though a pagan, is God's anointed instrument. After his conquest of Babylon (today's Baghdad), Cyrus allowed the Jewish captives in Babylon to return to their former land. He even helped finance the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Isaiah calls Cyrus God's anointed, making him the only non-Jew to be given that title. It must have been shocking to his contemporaries, who had believed that God only chose anointed servants from among their own kind. It's a reminder that God works in our world, not just through our church or any institution or person.

God has specially chosen Cyrus even though Cyrus did not know the God of Israel. The message is that God works through people without their even knowing that it is really God who is directing the events of history; moreover, that God can use non-believers to bring about his will brings home the message that everyone and everything really belongs to God.

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*There were some scientists and biologists who thought they had found the secret of life. And they decided to tell God he was no longer needed. They said they could create life also. God said, "well, I created life from a hand full of dirt." They said "we could too." Then they picked up a hand full of dirt and started to show God what they could do. God said to them, "wait just a minute. Create your own dirt."*

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Jesus' words at the end of today's Gospel are often misinterpreted to support the separation of church and state, or more precisely, the banishing of religion from governmental decisions. Certain realms are discerned to belong to God and other realms are assigned to Caesar. But this misses the fundamental fact that everything belongs to God.

Just as the image of Caesar stamped on a Roman coin indicates that the coin belongs to Caesar, so the image and likeness of God stamped on every person means that everyone (Caesar included) belongs to God. Thus, Jesus advises the Pharisees to return to the emperor the coin that bears his image but to return to God what bears God's image, that is, themselves, made in the image of God.

### GIVING GOD'S IMAGE BACK TO GOD

The life of every human being — his actions and decisions in dealing with himself, with others, with societies, with organizations, with the state — must be guided by God's values, by the image of God in him,

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Italy, a doctor of the church, wrote: "We are made in the image and likeness of God. So, you, O Christian, because you are a human being, are God's tribute money ---- a little coin bearing the image and likeness of the divine emperor. Therefore, with Christ I ask, *whose image and inscription are these?* Your answer is, God's, to which I reply, *then why not give God what belongs to him?*"

### BECOMING GOD'S IMAGE TO OTHERS

#### VIA THE RISEN CHRIST, THE EUCHARIST

We give God's image back to God by our words and deeds, showing God's image to others. We need God's grace to be able to fulfill this mission as individuals as well as together as one community.

St. Augustine said "Believe what you see, see what you believe and become what you are: the Body of Christ." When we say "Amen", we are saying "Yes! I believe this is the Body and Blood of Christ and that I will be the Body of Christ to others.

The point is that every time **we receive** the Eucharist, **we are transformed** -- or should be transformed -- a little more fully into the Body of Christ, so that the divine love that made us and that flows through us can **become** more fully expressed in the world. The invitation, in biblical language, "This is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. . ." should bring home to the communicant the message, "Behold what you are. Become what you receive."

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"You Are What You Eat" is the title of a diet book by Dr. Gillian McKeith, the internationally acclaimed Scottish television presenter, nutritionist and writer. Her very popular TV shows include: "You Are What You Eat," "Eat Yourself Sexy," "Supersize vs Superskinny." Indeed, if we eat fat we will become fat.

In the same way, we are what we believe. Our allegiances reveal to us who we really are. Is the world our master? Or is our true master the Creator of all the worlds and all the universes, the one who walks among the stars and down the timeless corridors of eternity? Is the image inscribed on our hearts the image of Jesus?

## TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY!

Here I Am, Send Me!

Today, on World Mission Sunday, **we respond, "Here I Am, Send Me,"** to our baptismal call to mission, and we offer, at the Eucharistic celebration, our prayers and our generous financial support, through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, to continue the mission of Jesus. Today we are **"sent"** out to witness to mission in the world through our prayers and sacrifices for our brothers and sisters around the world.

Write your Mission Sunday donation check to: **Office for the Missions, Diocese of San Diego**, then put it in the Mission Sunday envelope, and mail it to: **Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Diocese of San Diego, P.O. Box 82386, San Diego, CA 92138-2386.**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** On this World Mission Sunday, God asks us, "Whom Shall I Send?" Our answer is "Here I Am, Send Me!" May God bless us as we send ourselves to the whole world in prayer, proclaiming the "Good News" of Jesus to all nations and peoples.

**Our Response:** *Here I Am, Lord, Send Me.*

#### Lector:

For a personal relationship with Jesus, God the Father's Own Missionary sent to us, that we may, in His example, step out of ourselves for love of God and neighbor to answer our baptismal call to mission, especially during this time of crisis, pandemic and need,

#### Let us pray to the Lord...

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, head missionary of the Church, and for all missionaries and martyrs who give their lives to tell the glory of the Lord among the nations, especially those serving the most forgotten during the COVID-19 pandemic, that they may be loving, wise, and holy witnesses of Christ, Our Savior, **we pray to the Lord...**

For the leaders of nations, that they may be committed to justice for all peoples, to helping heal hatred and division, and to building a world at peace,

#### let us pray to the Lord...

For an increase in missionary charity, that our spiritual and financial sacrifices may help the message and love of Our Lord be made known to the ends of the earth,

#### let us pray to the Lord...

For those who are ill or isolated, for those who live in spiritual loneliness, that they may unite their sufferings with the Crucified Christ for the redemption of the world,

#### let us pray to the Lord...

**Celebrant:** God Our Father, You bless us with the gift of faith. Increase our faith as we answer, "Here I Am, Send Me" to our baptismal call to take part in the worldwide mission of Jesus. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the World. Amen.

## PARISHIONERS' CONTRIBUTIONS COUNTED AND DEPOSITED:

Sept. 13, 2020..... \$ 697.00  
Sept. 27, 2020..... \$ 1,991.00  
Oct. 3-4, 2020..... \$ 891.00  
Oct. 10-11, 2020..... \$ 685.00

Sept. 2020 online giving:  
\$ 1,430.00

Good Friday Collection: \$ 50.00

Donations..... \$ 600.00



*We urgently need an increase in Sunday Contributions. Our monthly collection total falls too short of the amount that is automatically debited from our bank account monthly by the diocese. Every so often we have to resort to withdrawing from our funds on deposit with the diocese (FOD).*

CULTURE OF LIFE FAMILY SERVICES  
THE 11TH ANNUAL  
**PRO-LIFE IS GOOD**  
VIRTUAL GALA  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2020  
LIVE-STREAMED

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

**KEYNOTE**  
DAVID BEREIT  
40 DAYS FOR LIFE FOUNDER

**Emcee**  
George Delgado, M.D.  
COLFS Medical Director

**Honorary Chairpersons**  
Den Frank & Claudette Mercardante

**Sue Lopez Pro-Life Award Recipients**  
John & Randi McDonnell

**Auctioneer**  
Sean Kelly

**Culture of Life Family Services**  
FOR INFO & REGISTRATION  
[WWW.FRIENDSOFCOLFS.ORG/GALA](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFCOLFS.ORG/GALA) | 619-795-3581

**Culture of life Family Services (COLFS) 11th Annual Gala is on Saturday, October 24th.** David Bereit, Founder of the 40 Days For Life will be our keynote speaker. This is our largest fundraiser of the year. Please participate and promote it. **Due to the pandemic, this year's gala will be live-streamed and registration is necessary for this virtual event.** For more information & to register: <https://friendsofcolfs.org/gala>

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