



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me." - Mk 9:35b-37a

September 19, 2021

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

GLP

LaCuesta's Quest

Remember *Muhammad Ali*? There was a time when he probably was the most famous person in the world. Back then, you could show his picture to people in any country on earth and most people would know who he was! He was a larger than life figure, with a really big personality. And while it's hard for me to imagine, I'm guessing that a few of the younger people today have never heard of him. For those who indeed never heard his name before: Muhammad Ali was an Olympic gold medalist and world champion heavyweight boxer in the 60s and 70s (winning the title multiple times). He also was a very socially conscious guy so much so that he was willing to be stripped of his boxing title (and almost go to prison in the process) for refusing to be drafted into the military during the Vietnam War.

He was absolutely everywhere (during a time when media exposure was not anywhere near as easily available as it is today)! Muhammad Ali also had an extremely well-known nickname (as many sports figures do). And the funny thing is, he gave the nickname to himself. What was that name? He called himself: *The Greatest*. All the time. Every chance he got. Naturally, some people loved him for it for the brashness of calling himself that. Some became annoyed at it (especially since he was a conscientious objector). But no one could ignore him. No one could look away when he was in the ring or on TV or at some public event. He was just that "great" in the eyes of so many.

"*They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.*" We heard that line in this Sunday's Gospel Reading at Mass (cf. *Mark 9:30-37*). It's kind of a puzzling verse. I have trouble trying to figure out exactly what they were bragging about (or even arguing about). One thing seems to be pretty clear: Jesus was not too happy with what he was hearing. And so, he clarifies a few things for them in case they were missing the point of what he had been telling them and showing them for quite a long time.

"*If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.*" Evidently, Jesus' idea of "greatness" and that of his disciples were two completely different things. And Jesus wanted to make sure they understood the difference. Most of us want to be "great" at something or many things: great with people, great at work, great at school, great at sports, great at fixing things, great at music, great at making money, great looking, great at knowing stuff, great at parenting. You name it. And there is nothing wrong with trying to be the best we can be at whatever it is we are trying to achieve—

(Continued on page 3...)

Pray for our Sick

Please remember to pray for the sick of our parish especially: G.P.A, B. & K. Anderson, Christine Anne, Chloe Arnold, M. B., John Barber, Beth Bartja, Dave Beutler, Larry & Susan Bialecki, Tom Boissy, Rich Brenner, Ava Burkey, S.C., Sue Chitwood, Seth Clark, Howard Cook, Dcn. George Cousino, Patricia Davis, Tom Dieter, Bob & Ruth Drudge, Ron DuVall, D. & A. E., Charles Esteves, Jim Etts, Maryann Fisher, Caroline Flaczynski, J. Flanagan, Tom & Joanne Foster, Carollee Gilmore, Florence Grandowicz, David Greer, Gayle Grove, Sharon Grycza, A.L.H., Nan Hankenhof, Doris Hervieux, Shannon Huber, Cheryl Hilty-Huth, Thelma Humphrys, Jessica Jenkins, Virginia Johnson, Eugenia Jones, Jacob Kahn, Gloria Karczewski, C. & M. Kehoe, David Kolar, Rich & Lexie Kopas, Tom Kosek, Dick Laurell, Vicki LaValle, Josh LaVigne, Madeline & Mary Lemerand, Laura Lorenzo, Katie M., Dee Masters, Ed McCormick, Nick McCoy, Tim Marino, Regina Meszaros, Linda Michael, Betty Miller, Joseph Mitchell, Rick & Madeline Mitchell, Amanda Moore, Ken & Lynn Muntz, Patricia Novembre, James Nyhan IV, Carita Pakulski, David Perry, Margie Perzynski, Lucille Pirrone, Jamie Poupard, Marie Rakolta, Crystal Regnier, Mary Russell, Joe Rutkowski, G.S., Joan Salisbury, Sandra, Pat Schoenrad, Paul Schornack, Joe Seager, Ernestine Slaviero, Tracy Smith, Jill Stoll, Barbara Szczurek, Christy Szymanski, Tenney Family, Alice Truna, Erick Urbaniak, Cheryl Usery, Cindy Vebeustad, Andy Vebeustad Jr., L.W., M. Walentowski, Pat Webber, Ralph Wenski, Frank & Roberta Wesolowski, Hazel Young, and Tom Zoldowski.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

***Weekend Masses:** Saturday, 4:30 PM;
Sunday, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

***Daily Mass:** Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat, 9:00AM.
Church open daily until 2:00PM (no Thurs & Sat).

Confession: Saturdays, in Room 1, 9:45-10:30AM;
3:00-3:45PM; weekdays by appointment—call the Parish Office.

Baptism and weddings: Prearrangement required.
Call the Parish Office for details.

Rev. Don A. LaCuesta	Pastor
Rev. Mr. Marty Selmek	Deacon
Rev. Mr. George Cousino	Deacon, <i>retired</i>
Mary Urbanski	Director of Faith Formation
Linda Moeltner	Business Office
Chris Knudsen	Director of Music Ministry
Kelly Schmidt	olmc.kelly@bex.net
Jane Czupich	olmc.office@bex.net
Parish Office	734.847.2805
Fax	734.847.8970
Email	olmc@bex.net
Faith Formation Office	734.847.1725
Email	olmc.dre@bex.net
Website	mountcarmeltemperance.org
Office Hours	M-F, 9AM to 5PM

Faith In-formation

Classes begin *THIS WEEK!*

Monday, September 20,

Grades K—6, 4:30-5:45 PM

Tuesday, September 21,

Grades K—6, 5:30-6:45 PM

Grades 7 & 8, 6:30-8:00 PM

We need YOU

We are in the 11th hour and this is our desperate plea... We only need *two* catechists (for Grade 6 on Monday and for Grade 8 on Tuesday). It's all about sharing the faith — it's not about what you know or what you think you don't know.


Remember, ***"God does not call the equipped; He equips those He calls!"***

Please pray about this. Call Mary Urbanski in the Faith Formation Department, 734-847-1725, today if you can help.

Office Volunteers needed

We are in need of volunteers to help in the Faith Formation Office during class time (Monday 4:30PM and Tuesday 5:30PM). No experience necessary... let us know if you'd like to help.

Flowers for Our Lady

The flowers donated in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel are provided this week by  **LuDonna Wlodarski in memory of the Borling Family.**

To donate flowers and have your intentions lifted in prayer, call the Parish Office, 734-847-2805.

Marriage Banns

Emily Ialacci & Christopher Smith — I

Your Envelope Speaks...

Last Weekend:

Budgeted Weekly	\$ 10,400
Actual	\$ 9,109
Over/Under	\$ - 1,291
Budget YTD	\$ 114,400
Actual YTD	\$ 101,448
Over/Under YTD	\$ - 12,952

Thank you for your generosity!

October Ushers


4:30 Mass

*J. Burns, L. Fraley,
P. Roach

9:00 Mass

*J. & P. Lammers,
A. Piotrowski

11:00 Mass

*P. Leonhardt,
A. Kowalski,
T. Homolka 

FUEL the *MISSION*—C.S.A.

Here's an update on this year's *Catholic Services Appeal* (C.S.A.). The CSA is an opportunity for us to respond to Christ's command "to love one another as I have loved you" by helping fund services throughout the broader area of Southeast Michigan. A few of the many ministries that CSA funds are formation of our priests, deacons and catechists, Catholic education and youth ministries, and the Metropolitan Tribunal (which renders services at no charge). Each parish is given a formula-based CSA target. If contributions exceed this target, the parish receives 100% of the exceeding funds. However if the collection falls short, the parish must cover the difference from its operating revenues. Our 2021 target is **\$83,016.00**. As of September 10, we have 39% of our goal pledged (and 36% paid). If this is all our parish collects then we will have to make up the deficit from the general fund! Then we will need to delay necessary capital improvement projects that we plan to address (new heating & air conditioning units, new roof, parking lot improvements). The parish has recently mailed information about CSA and how to make a contribution. We are grateful to parishioners who have already responded to this year's appeal. For those who haven't, please prayerfully consider giving to the CSA.

(LaCuesta's Quest Continued...)

whether that be something trivial and insignificant or tremendously important and essential. But if we could only be good at ONE thing, if we had to choose—what would that one thing be?

"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." My friends, the spiritual life—the life of a disciple—is not easy. But it's also not complicated. We really only have one duty, one responsibility, one "thing" we are called to be "great" in—*love*. A "great" person in the eyes of God is one who loves a lot, loves deeply, loves without counting the cost. There is no other measure of being faithful (no matter how much we may want it to be otherwise), no other endeavor which is more important! If we can only be great at one thing—that one thing needs to be "love". Without it, no other accomplishments of ours matter. Our achievements are always less than the achievements God desperately wants to work through us. It's *okay* to be confident in our abilities, to take a certain kind of healthy "pride" in our accomplishments—as long as our pride is accompanied by a deep sense of gratitude, a sincere recognition that our accomplishments are always because of God's goodness, not because we are somehow "better" than others.

I often wonder how Muhammad Ali talked about his bravado as he discussed these things privately with his friends. My guess (and hope) is that he probably joked about how it was all in good fun, all to put on a good show. He was great at what he did and he knew it. It was undeniable to anyone who saw him in action. But was that what he truly wanted to be "greatest" at? I doubt it. After all, his life (in so many other ways) would seem to indicate otherwise.

What do we want to be great at? Seriously. Trying to be the "greatest" at it is not a trivial pursuit. Nor is it a waste of time (even if we never become the "greatest" at it). But let's not let it be for a lack of trying!

— Fr. Don A. LaCuesta

Masses for the Week

Monday, September 20

9:00 AM † Charles Wardell

Tuesday, September 21

9:00 AM † Patrick Dillon

Wednesday, September 22

9:00 AM † Elaine Scarbrough

9:30 AM **Eucharistic Adoration**

4:00 PM Benediction

Thursday, September 23

NO Mass

Friday, September 24

9:00 AM † Marjorie Scavio

Saturday, September 25

9:00 AM † Alfred J. Miller

9:45-10:30 AM **Confession**, Rm 1

3-3:45 PM **Confession**, Rm 1

4:30 PM † Lewis Ditrinco

† David Hofheinz

Sunday, September 26—26th

Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM

† Cyril & Victoria Vallade

† Benny & Stella Zielinski

11:00 AM

† John Cioroch

† Joe Keane

† Pete Zaums

This Week's Readings

Week of September 20

Mon: Ezr 1:1-6/Lk 8:16-18

Tue: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13

Wed: Ezr 9:5-9/Lk 9:1-6

Thu: Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9

Fri: Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22

Sat: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Lk 9:43b-45

Sun: Nm 11:25-29/Jas 5:1-6/

Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48




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