

"**ON THIS MOUNTAIN** the Lord of Hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines...." Says Prophet Isaiah in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading. His prophecy, however, was not based on wishful thinking but on God's promise, a promise that he expected God to fulfil, not in Utopia, but "on this mountain."

All God's promises are being fulfilled in Jesus; this is the faith of Christians. "The Son of God, Jesus Christ...was not 'Yes and No'; but in him it is always 'Yes'. For in him every one of God's promises is a Yes" says St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians. Isaiah's prophecy, like all the others, is fulfilled in Jesus. He is the one who prepares the "messianic banquet" - a symbol of the joy of the "messianic kingdom", to be inaugurated by the Messiah. Therefore, Jesus begins his ministry saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son." The Last Supper is the messianic banquet in anticipation. The Mass retains this meaning of the messianic banquet in anticipation.

In today's Gospel Jesus speaks of a wedding feast, and though it was the most joyful time in a Jew's life, those who were called refused to come. So, he sent his servants out into the highways and byways to invite everyone they could find. "They gathered all whom they found, both good and bad." Now, Jesus also leads us to the understanding that his ministry is the invitation which many of us resist. The good and bad, rich and poor, righteous and sinners, all are invited. But only the outcasts of his time, Samaritans, tax-collectors and sinners, foreigners, pagans found meaning in listening and guiding their lives in his grace. He challenges us today; let us put off the attitudes of arrogance and division, cynicism and discouragement that we may believe in him, mend our ways and live in his love! Let us not live our lives by conveniences but convictions that result from genuine and sincere reflection of his holy word and frequent celebration of the sacraments!

*Fr. Michael*



"**EN ESTE MONTE** el Señor prepara para todas las naciones un banquete de comida deliciosa, un banquete de vinos finos..." Dice el profeta Isaías en la 1era lectura. Su profecía, de cualquier forma, no era basada en una ilusión, sino en la promesa de Dios, una promesa de la que él esperaba que Dios cumpliría, no en Etiopía, sino "sobre ese monte".

Todas las promesas de Dios han sido cumplidas en Jesús; esta es la fe de los cristianos. "El Hijo de Dios, Jesucristo... no era un 'Si y No; sino en Él era siempre 'Si'. Pues cada promesa de Dios fue un Si en Él" Dice Sn. Pablo en su carta a los corintios. La profecía de Isaías, como todas, han sido cumplidas en Jesús. Él es el que prepara el "banquete mesiánico" - un símbolo de alegría del "reino mesiánico", para ser inaugurado por el Mesías. Así que, Jesús comienza su ministerio diciendo, "El Reino de los cielos puede ser comparado con un rey quien da un banquete de bodas para su hijo." La Última Cena es el banquete mesiánico en anticipación. La Misa retiene este significado del banquete mesiánico en anticipación.

En el Evangelio de hoy Jesús habla de la fiesta de bodas, y pensó que era uno de los tiempos de más de alegría en la vida judía, aquellos a los que llamaron se negaron a ir. Entonces, él mandó a sus sirvientes a las avenidas y caminos para invitar a todos los que encontraran. "Ellos reunieron a todos los que encontraron, de los dos buenos y malos." Ahora, Jesús también nos lleva a entender que su ministerio es la invitación a la cual muchos de nosotros nos resistimos. Los buenos y malos, ricos y pobres, justos y pecadores, extranjeros, paganos encontraran significado escuchando y guiando sus vidas en la gracia de Dios. Él nos desafía hoy; quitemos nuestras actitudes de arrogancia y división, cinismo y descontento para que podamos creer en él, enmendemos nuestros caminos y vivamos en su amor! NO vivamos por conveniencia, sino por convicción que resulta de una genuina y sincera reflexión de su santa palabra y celebración frecuente de los sacramentos!

*Padre Miguel*



**IT' TIME FOR HIGH TEA!** — Catholic Daughters cordially invites all to enjoy HIGH TEA on Saturday, **October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2-4:00pm** (doors open at 1:00pm), at St. Mary Parish Center (1062 Charnelton) ... tickets: \$20/Adult, \$15/Senior, \$10/child (12 and under). Come enjoy, and help out our local Catholic Daughters in this fundraiser!

**HEALING MASS** — Come experience the Lord's healing love! This Healing Mass is on Friday, October 27, at St. Mary Catholic Church (Eugene), at 7:00pm. Celebrants will be: Bishop Peter Smith, Fr. Ron Nelson, Fr. Edgar Rivera, & Fr. Bryce McProud. Sponsored by La Esperanza Ministry and St. Mary Charismatic Prayer Group. For info, contact Jacqui at 541-513-2607, or Dave at 541-689-8070.

..... *Vengan experiencia el Amor sanador del Señor en esta Misa de Sanación, en Viernes, 27 de Octubre, 7:00pm, en Iglesia Santa Maria (Eugene). Celebrantes: Obispo Peter Smith, Padre Ron Nelson, Padre Edgar Rivera, y Padre Bryce McProud. Organizado por: El Ministerio la Esperanza y el Grupo de Oración Carismática de la Iglesia Santa María. Para información, llame por encima de los números de teléfono.*

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS** — Regular Court meeting on **October 19** (Thursday) ... Mass at 12:15pm, followed by potluck/meeting at 1:00pm; bring a dish to share. For info: Julia Kelso at 541-344-6851.

~ ALL ARE WELCOME! ~

**WORKSHOP FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
AT **MASS** AND TO THE **SICK AND HOMEBOUND** with **Monsignor Gerard O'Connor**

New Director of the OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP for the Archdiocese of Portland

Where: St. Alice (1520 E Street / Spfld.) When: October 28<sup>th</sup> (Sat.)  
9:30am Mass + refreshments 10:20am Talk by Msgr. O'Connor

Please RSVP to St. Mark (541-689-0725) or St. Peter office (541-688-1051)



## FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

### WHY SO MANY SINNERS??

When the priest, Ezra, led his people in confession of their sins as a nation, the resulting list of wrongdoing was extensive: idolatry, rebellion, disobedience, pride, ingratitude, stubbornness, murder, injustice, and more. Again and again, God extended them mercy; again and again, they slid back into sin. If God hadn't been long-suffering, the people would have perished many times over (Neh 9:1-37).

Today, God's people receive bountiful graces through our Lord, Jesus Christ, that weren't available in Ezra's time. Most importantly, we have the sacraments of the Church to help us on our path to holiness. Yet, even though these sacraments can turn us away from sin, we are still left with "concupiscence" — a certain weakness of the soul that inclines us to sin, so that this path to holiness is a continual struggle.

Consequently, Scripture confirms, the Church is composed not just of saints in the making, but also sinners. We see this reality most indisputably in certain parables about the kingdom of heaven (the Church). In the parable of the wheat and the weeds, for example, Jesus teaches that both will grow together until harvest time, the final judgment (Mt 13:24-30). He also compares the Church to a fishnet that draws good and bad fish, which must be separated, but not until the end (Mt 13:47-50). From the very beginning, the Church has been a mixed bag — even Judas was one of the apostles, chosen by Jesus himself.

Since we, too, are sinners, we must not let the presence of other sinners in the Church scandalize us. The good news is that God's mercy in Christ is extended to us all. For that reason, we should maintain a lively hope for the salvation even of those whose sins disturb us most (Rom 2:1-8; 5:8, 19-21). In the meantime, only God knows who will finally end up as "wheat" and who as "weeds". We must leave it to him to sort us out (Mt 13:28-30).

### RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Mt 7:14, 21-23; 9:37; 24:10 • Lk 13:23-24 • Acts 20:17, 28, 30 • Rom 14:10-12 • 1 Cor 3:1-4; 5:1-2; 11:21 (compare 1:2) • 2 Cor 11:2-4; 12:20-21 (compare 1:1) • Gal 3:1-4; 4:9-20; 5:1-7 • 2 Tm 2:15-20 • Rev 2:4—3:8  
& Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 671-672 • 769 • 823-829 • 867 • 2030