

## 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 53:10-11  
Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22  
Hebrews 4:14-16  
Mark 10:35-45

**Monday October 18**  
**St. Luke the Evangelist**  
2 Timothy 4:10-17b  
Ps 145:10-13,17-18  
Luke 10:1-9

**Tuesday October 19**  
**Sts. Isaac Jogues,**  
**John de Brebeuf & co.**  
Romans 5:12,15b,17-21  
Ps 40:7-10,17  
Luke 12:35-38

**Wednesday October 20**  
Romans 6:12-18  
Ps 124:1b-8  
Luke 12:39-48

**Thursday October 21**  
Romans 6:19-23  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Luke 12:49-53

**Friday October 22**  
Romans 7:18-25a  
Ps 119:66,68,76,77,93,94  
Luke 12:54-59

**Saturday October 23**  
Romans 8:1-11  
Ps 24:1b-6  
Luke 13:1-9

To be great in the kingdom of God means to be a servant, says Jesus: We are to serve the needs of others for the benefit of the kingdom.

This does not mean that our own needs and desires don't matter. Being a servant for God is not slavery; it's an honor and a blessing, because it unites us to the saving servanthood of Christ.

Being a servant like Christ means that we are treated by the Father the same way Jesus was treated. Our Master will not belittle us, disrespect us, nor over-work us.

The alternative is to be a slave to our worldly passions and possessions and the ways of the world. Worldly enslavement does belittle us. It reduces us to less than what God created us to be.

The ways of Christ empower us to be like Christ himself: free to enjoy all of the benefits of the kingdom of God, free to live a holy life, and therefore, free to be great in the eyes of our Father.

In this freedom, there is great joy. Although the ways of Christ are not easy and sometimes lead to the Cross, this cup of suffering increases our holiness and makes us even greater in heaven. When we make sacrifices for the benefit of others and we understand that our sufferings are part of our growth in holiness, they become

much more bearable, because what had seemed like a curse is redeemed into a very significant blessing.



Do you know anyone whose prayers have not been answered? It's not because God doesn't care, nor because he can't help them. He answers the prayers of others through our servanthood. Jesus serves others through us.

Our top priority must always be our own relationship with God, so that we receive an abundance of whatever he wants us to share with others in service to their needs. We cannot give what we don't have. We cannot serve others well – we cannot be the presence of Christ for them – unless we ourselves have first been served by Jesus.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What has God blessed you with abundantly? What insights, gifts, talents, wisdom, etc., do you have?
2. How are these indications that Jesus has served you?
3. Share how you have passed this service onto someone else (or would like to). For example, how has he served you with his unconditional, forgiving love? Or how has he served you by meeting an unmet need? In turn, how has this helped you to be a loving servant for others?