

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 18:25-28
Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

Monday September 28

Job 1:6-22
Ps 17:1b-3,6-7
Luke 9:46-50

Tuesday September 29 Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, archangels

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
or Revelation 12:7-12a
Ps 138:1-5
John 1:47-51

Wednesday September 30 St. Jerome

Job 9:1-12,14-16
Ps 88:10bc-15
Luke 9:57-62

Thursday October 1 St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Job 19:21-27
Ps 27:7-9c,13-14
Luke 10:1-12

Friday October 2 Holy Guardian Angels

Job 38:1,12-21; 40:3-5
Ps 139:1-3,7-10,13-14ab
Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Saturday October 3

Job 42:1-3,5-6,12-17
Ps 119:66,71,75,91,125,130
Luke 10:17-24

Today's Gospel story was meant to shock people who think they're okay spiritually but do not honestly examine how well they do the Father's will.

Jesus said that tax collectors and prostitutes (professions considered to be the most contemptible and unholy) were entering the kingdom of God ahead of religious experts!

These so-called "ex-perts" knew the correct answer to the question that Jesus posed – they knew to say yes to God – but knowing the right answer and actually DOing the right answer is the dividing line between heaven and hell.

God doesn't want right answers; he wants righteous actions. God doesn't want dutiful compliance to Church teachings; he wants obedience motivated by love and an enthusiastic attitude of serving in the mission of the Church.

What's the value of going to Mass every Sunday, for example, if it doesn't result in deeds of holiness outside the Mass?

Do you know someone who's saying "no" to coming to Mass? If they're doing good works because they genuinely love God, who's to say they won't reach full



unity with him sooner than people who attend every Mass but do little to help others?

God wants us to do both: Know the right answers and be righteous. Go to Mass faithfully and be changed by it. Say yes to his calling to make the world a better place by uniting ourselves to Christ

in church and following out him out the door, taking him to everyone we meet.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What opportunities to serve God in your parish or out in the community have you said "no" to? Spend some time praying to understand whether or not that was an invitation from Christ himself.
2. What can you say "yes" to now?
3. What types of people today are despised the most?
4. Who seems least likely to get into heaven? (A terrorist perhaps? An ex-spouse?) How is it possible (to our surprise) that we might be greeted by them when we arrive in heaven? How would you feel about it?