

October 8, 2017 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Cycle A
Father Larry Richards

Good Morning! How are you? Today as we, first I want to apologize for the smell in the church. It's all the waterproofing they put on there. It seeps in so it's gonna be awhile before it's completely gone. Second, I want to welcome all those who came to visit us for Oktoberfest. It's so good you're here. This mass is usually more crowded but all the workers are next door already preparing you lunch or whatever you're gonna have.

But, let's focus on the readings. I want to briefly deal with the Gospel. The Gospel deals with the landowner who goes and gives it to other people to build it and work for him and they kill all his servants and his son. The parable is about do we build up our own kingdom or do we build up God's kingdom. If we think about, all the gifts you have, all the gifts you have been given, everything, all your talents, they have been given to you to build up the kingdom of God. What happens today in the Gospel is they use the things they have been given – everything was given to them – for themselves. So, that's never a good reality.

So, the first question you gotta ask yourself today is do you use your gifts for the building up of God's kingdom or do you use your gifts for the building up of your kingdom, and your family, and your name, or whatever it is. Because God doesn't deal very well with the people who waste it on themselves. Just a thought.

Let's focus now on the 2nd reading. In the 2nd reading, we deal with Paul, and Paul starts off by saying, "Have no anxiety at all." Doesn't that just comfort you? You know, have no anxiety at all. You know, every time I put something like that on my Twitter feed at night or Facebook, people say, "Well, how is that gonna happen, Father?" Because again, we live in perpetual anxiety anymore, right? You know, like I have been in great anxiety for this Oktoberfest. Will it be good? Will people show up?

But then you know, a couple months ago, my mother was having problems and she has these enzymes in her liver and so that doctor said we need to get a

biopsy. So, my mother goes after I'm on retreat and she calls me, and I call her after my retreat and said, "So, what's up." She says, "Oh".

"What, oh?"

"I got to get an operation. I need both my cataracts out."

"OK."

She says "And then they found enzymes and they want to do a biopsy but I don't want to do it?"

And I said, "Get that done first."

"No, I'm gonna get my eyes done first."

"If you die of cancer, you don't need your eyes. I'm telling you, get your, get the biopsy done first".

"No"

So she went and had the cataract surgery and then after the 2nd cataract surgery, she says, "They want me to do it in October but I told them I'm gonna wait until after the first of the year."

"No, you're not gonna wait until the first of the year. You're gonna get it done as soon as possible." "Larry!"

I said, "You're not gonna drive me crazy or yourself crazy. You're gonna get this done."

So she called me yesterday and said, "OK, it's gonna happen next Wednesday. I'm a nervous wreck."

Now, if my mother's a nervous wreck, what does that make me? A nervous wreck. So I ask you to pray for my mother and that everything goes well and that the biopsy that there's nothing there. It's been over a year, so I'm hoping, and she's a nervous wreck, so I'm a nervous wreck. So, how do we deal with the anxiety, because anxiety is fear of the unknown, correct? We all have it.

So when God tells us in the gospel, and in the 2nd reading today, "Have no anxiety at all", I know that's nice but then He tells us how to deal with the anxiety. Offer everything in prayer and petition. Isn't that amazing that He talks about two different things. Prayer is just being with God. Petition is asking God. But then He has that next thing which is the most powerful part of the 2nd reading – offer everything to God, all your concerns, all your petitions to God in prayer and

petition with thanksgiving. That means we already thank God for He is good and He'll take care of us. Right?

And again, I've told you a lot of times about the prayer of Mother Theresa – her mini novena. Her mini novena was ten Memoraraes. Nine is what a novena is, nine days or nine hours or nine prayers – nine in petition and then one immediately in thanksgiving for God hearing our prayer. Again, it's worked with me so many times and again as I've talked about and I've shared with you before – you know about five years ago when they thought I had lung cancer.

It was funny because Dr. McGovern was here last night when I was telling the story. I went to see him because I was having problems coughing and that and they found a little spot on my lung about the size of a nickel. He said, "OK, it could be a shadow. Let's look back in about six weeks, Father." It was during my Lent time so I went back in six weeks when he grabbed me and said, "You gotta go." It doubled in size to a half a dollar – my spot in my lung. And he goes, "Oh Father, this isn't good." I go, "Tell me about it. I know." He said, "OK, let's go get the MRI" and it's my birthday and I went over there and I knelt on that kneeler and I said the mini-novena. I went to our Lady and I said, "Mom, if you want to carry me, take me home, I'm ready but I also know the doctor can call me and say it's nothing there, Father, it's nothing there."

So, as soon as I got off my knees, I walked into my sitting room and I sat there in my easy chair and Dr. McGovern called me on the phone and like I said last night, he was jumping up and down on the other side of the phone. We all know Dr. McGovern. He doesn't jump up and down but he was really excited inside, it just wasn't coming out. He said, "Father, there's nothing there. There's nothing there" and I said, "Praise God." He said, "No Father, you don't understand. There's three other doctors that looked at this. There's nothing there. There was a growth there – big time and it's gone." I said "Praise God." Then he called me the next day and he said, "Father, you don't understand." I go, "I do understand, you don't understand."

The point of it is, that immediately, we just don't become these dark holed, black holed people who say, "Gimme, gimme, gimme. I want. I want. I want." We always thank God for His prayer, His answer that He knows what's best for us. We say, "God, I thank you that you hear me. I thank you that you know what's

best for me. I thank you that I never offer a prayer without you having the answer.”

When we do that, now we have this trust in God and then it promises us, then peace of God will guard your heart because it's not just a petition of desperation. It's a petition of trust and that makes all the difference to help kill the anxiety in our life.

So, as we know today, what we need to do every time we pray, we always say “Thank you that You are good, that You love me, that You know what's best. I trust in You” and then we can have peace and our anxiety will be less.

You Got it? Get it? Gonna live it? May each of you know His love today and forever. Amen.