

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!



Engraved upon our hearts is the powerful pull towards God, and the subsequent happiness of this goal. The world today is in pursuit of happiness. Today's readings direct us towards the source of this supreme happiness, as found in the beatitudes. "Beatitude" means "blessedness" in a dual sense: both enjoying God's favor and enjoying true or supreme happiness; something that can be experienced when we share our blessings with our brothers and sisters in need and work to uplift them.

In our first reading, Jeremiah conveys the Lord's wisdom regarding the deep choices we as human beings can make: will we elect to bring upon ourselves and our world blessings or curses, trusting in the Lord and His promises, or will we choose to trust in people? In reply, David's responsorial psalm affirms that we can find beatitude in keeping God's Law. In our second reading, St. Paul preaches resurrection theology and that we can realize how our belief in the resurrection of Jesus provides us with assurance of eternal life.

Our Gospel reading from Saint Luke conveys the unexpected *extremes* that our Lord Jesus imparts to his disciples, and to us! They do not seem to line up with worldly values...it all seems to be in reverse! The folks that Jesus calls happy and blessed are those the world would call wretched and unimportant. He chooses poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution as formulas for infusing supernatural joy into our lives. This is a clarion call to us for self-examination, so timely since our Lenten journey is nearly upon us. Our Lord makes it clear that the pursuit of wisdom and the virtues of humility and meekness are imperative to Christian discipleship, because without these, entering heaven becomes an illusion.

Bringing with it much blessing, we are silently summoned to being Christ for others. This starts in little ways, identifying who in our world can use our assistance, a little mission that reaches out both spiritually and materially in ways that spread the promises of the beatitudes here and now. Between 65-80 A.D., a work called *The Didache* is thought to have been written by the twelve apostles concerning the essence of Christian faith. This first century catechism begins "*There are two Ways, one of Life and one of Death, and there is a great difference between the two Ways.*" It promotes love for God and neighbor as a primary rule for living.

**"Man has a beautiful occupation, that of praying and loving."
St. Jean Marie Baptiste Vianney, the Cure of Ars.**

Have a Blessed Sunday!