

Spiritually Speaking

Go, sell what you have

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

Today, the readings remind us that we do not possess anything that we refuse to surrender to the Lord. Instead, most things often possess us, we become prisoners of our possessions. We have given "our things" top priority. Thus, we violate the first commandment of God, which demands us to give absolute and unconditional priority to God.

The Book of Wisdom (7:7-11) depicts about a hundred years before the birth of Jesus. The Jewish community was a minority in the cosmopolitan city of Alexandria, Egypt. They were cut off from the comforting religious institutions of Jerusalem, subject to great cultural pressure from the pagan Greek society. They were tempted to follow Greek philosophy and morality, rather than their faith traditions. This reading teaches that one should prefer wisdom to every other good thing. It quotes from King Solomon's personal valuation of wisdom: "I preferred her (true wisdom) to scepter and throne and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her." This first-century B.C. Alexandrian Jewish teacher identifies wisdom as the greatest possession of all and contrasts it with material possessions. True wisdom comes from God and is the ability to see and understand things as God sees and understands them. Only divine wisdom can teach us how to live wisely and successfully. We are also invited to see Jesus as Wisdom incarnate and to give him priority over everything else in life.

The Letter to the Hebrews (4:12-13) portrays the faith of Jewish converts to Christianity. These converts faced the contempt of their former Jewish friends and felt nostalgia for the institutions of Judaism that were either absent or greatly transformed in their new religion. This letter tries to show them in what ways the new religion of Christianity is better than their old Jewish faith. St. Paul tells them that "The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword."

Saint Mark (10: 17-30) tells the story of a very good young man who wants to follow Jesus and who has been deeply faithful to the teachings of God in his Jewish faith. Yet, when Jesus asks the young man to give up all his wealth and come and follow Him, the young man goes away sad. God is always asking things of each of us, so like the rich young man in so many ways: good and not yet totally committed. We don't know what the young man did later on. Perhaps he ended up selling everything, giving it to the poor, and following Jesus. But his first response was only sadness. From today's Gospel let us draw some conclusions:

1) "Do something beautiful for God" by reaching out to others. Let us give ourselves away and give lavishly. Mother Teresa puts it in a different way: "Do something beautiful for God. Do it with your life. Do it every day. Do it in your own way. But do it!"

2) Share generously. Jesus was so generous that He gave us His very self. To follow Jesus, we must have a generous heart and be willing to give our belongings away in order to express our generosity. In the heart of every Christian should be a desire to give. Martin Luther says that the man who has given his heart to God will also give God his wallet. Let us also ask the question: "How do I use my God-given talents for the good of others?"

3) "You are lacking one thing." We all have something in our lives that serves as a major obstacle to happiness and peace. We must recognize this obstacle and address it head-on. Let us invite God into our lives and into our efforts to face that one obstacle to holiness. We have a decision to make; whether to go away sad like the rich young man or to follow Jesus and be happy.

4) We need to follow Jesus on His terms, not on ours. Sometimes it may involve giving up things that are good. Parents, consider all the time and personal recreation and relaxation (all good things) given up over the years for the sake of the children. As mothers or fathers who are also disciples of Jesus Christ, this was required of us, and we made the sacrifice. When we follow Jesus on His terms, there may be certain crosses to bear, but deep down in the core of our being is peace and joy, because we know that we are doing our best to carry out God's perfect will in our lives.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

VETERAN VISITS DC

-Continued from PAGE ONE
were there with flags, signs and tears. Everyone joined in to sing the national anthem as part of the special reception. "When we got to our vehicles, we fell in behind a motorcade to the fairgrounds led by a police car and a veteran's group on Harley Davidson motorcycles. The welcome and ceremony at the fairgrounds culminated with each vet being presented with a handmade quilt," Greenup reported.

The Honor Flight Net-

work is a national network of independent Hubs working together to honor the nation's veterans with an all-expenses paid trip to the memorials in Washington, DC, a trip many veterans may not otherwise be able to take. Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the chance to share this momentous trip with other veterans, to remember friends and comrades lost and share their stories and experiences with each other.

Cemetery district plans meeting

The Heppner Cemetery Maintenance District will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. The regular meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Ag Service Building conference room at 430 W Linden Way.

Agenda items include

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk's office has released the following report of marriage licenses:

- September 9, 2021:**
- Larrie Brent Duff, 45, Boardman, and Sosha Kathleen Woodruff, 40, Boardman.
- Tehya Chrysta Nicole Martinez, 23, Irrigon, and Dustin Troy Hascall, 23, Irrigon.
- Sandra Hernandez Vera, 25, Irrigon, and Jorge Armando Campos, 29, Irrigon.
- September 14, 2021:**
- Jeffery Dakota Wilson, 24, Boardman, and Nicole

minutes of the previous meeting, financial report and cemetery operations. Meetings of the Heppner Cemetery Maintenance District are open to the public according to ORS 192.640(1). For questions, contact Janet Greenup at 541-561-6768.

Marie Lutz, 27, Boardman.

- September 16, 2021:**
- Joseph Harry Vandecar III, 20, Umatilla, and Karizima Elizabeth Luna, 20, Umatilla.
- September 20, 2021:**
- Adam Blair Collin, 27, Ione, and Yezmin Verduzco, 27, Condon.
- September 22, 2021:**
- Justin Jay Shelton, 45, Boardman, and Anjanette Marie Jones, 43, Boardman.
- September 28, 2021:**
- Richard James Drake, 66, Heppner, and Lucinda Brigida Clement, 50, Heppner.

Wolf committee schedules meeting

The Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory committee will meet Tuesday, October 12 at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Bartholomew Building upper conference room, 110 N. Court St., Heppner. The agenda for the meeting will be published on the "Meetings" page of the Morrow County website

by the afternoon of October 8: <https://www.co.morrow.or.us/meetings>. The meeting is open to the public and an option to attend electronically will be listed at the end of the agenda.

For questions, please contact the Morrow County board of commissioner's office, 541-676-5613.

A View from the Green

Over the Tee Cup

Willow Creek Country Club ladies held a scramble for their last day of golf of

the 2021 season on September 28.

Winners of the scramble were the teams of Virginia Grant and Kris Lindner taking first place, Karen Thompson and Pat Dougherty in second and Tiffany Clement and Pat Edmundson coming in third.

Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan

How thoughtful: Last Friday, my poor timing had me waiting in line at the gas station with my one-gallon mower-gas container. Waiting behind rigs that shouted "hunters" at every available pump but one. At that one, I waited to follow a motorcycle rider, with whom I struck up a conversation. And as his tank was full, he insisted that I hand over my container so he could fill it on his dime.. (Okay, actually his \$3.60). Such a kind young man who had just visited his mother in La Pine and was headed to see his brother in Spokane.

Flu season coming up, right? So, several want-to-be-vaccinated individuals were disappointed by the cancellation of the MC Health Dept's flu-vaccination clinic last Wednesday. But a call to the department learned that possible dates for a clinic are being studied, and in the meantime, flu shots are available at Murray Drugs. That alternative is a "real shot in the arm."

Ione sports fans were so pleased to see such good reporting of their teams in the Heppner Gazette. Sources say they hope for more of the same.

Ooh-Rah.. Austin Moses, graduate of Heppner High School, is graduating from Marine Boot Camp on October 15. He is the son of Seth Moses and grandson of Kathie McGowan. Kathie is driving to San Diego with a friend to enjoy all the activities, family day and graduation day. You might remember Austin. He worked at Heppner Family Foods as a cashier.

Good news for anyone looking for rocks useful in landscaping: Christopher and Andrea Bruhn recently bought the Dale Holland house on Gale Street, and they have a back yard filled with so many flat rocks, they want to share. Simply call 971-282-6682 to get an appointment for some rock-hauling. Welcome to Heppner, Christopher, Andrea and Richie.

Good looking wheels that Randall Peterson is "scootering" the street on. Be aware, Randall, that speed limits do exist.

Marjorie Gorham celebrated her 98th birthday last Saturday, sharing cupcakes made by her daughter, Karen Wolff, with well-wishers who came by.

Christopher Rea has been up from CA to visit parents, Keith and Judy, and was there to celebrate the two men's birthdays together.

Roxanna Lou was born on September 12th at 7:17 to parents Nacho and Rachel Elguezabal of

McMinnville. Maternal grandparents are John and Amy Adamski and paternal grandparents are Juan and MaryAnn Elguezabal. Roxanna joins big brother, John, who is four. Lots of changes for this family, as they moved to McMinnville in August and Nacho began working as a first-grade teacher for the McMinnville school district in September.

Marlene Gray became president of Rebekah Lodges of Oregon in May. As such, she has been and will continue to be visiting the lodges throughout the state. Traveling with Marlene is her state marshal, LaRae Kinkle, so we know both humor and seriousness travel with them. They also expect to attend the March conference of the north-west region of Rebekahs, in Canada.

Some good news for readers who are worriedly wondering: City Hall reports that the cement people will be back in a couple of weeks to finish sidewalks (interrupted by another job commitment) and the paving of streets should follow that in about another week. So, in the world of infrastructure construction schedules that can be disappointments for locals, that schedule is probably going to bring everything to an end at just about the original November prediction. Since the work is not ahead of schedule as first hoped, however, Jones Street and Willow View Drive work will be on hold until warmer weather returns.

Fall has brought an after-summer-break return of several activities for area women, including the Ione-Lexington pinochle group that has been playing (now with four original members) for about 60 years, meeting last week at Perks and Brews in Ione; and the Ione Topic Club, meeting on September 30 for lunch and discussion of their November book-fair fund raiser for the school. New members are welcomed, says Betty Gray; and the Ladies Community Bible Study that meets on Thursdays at 1:00 at the Ione Community Church. Interested in information? Call Kelly Christman or Verna Basford.

How relaxing, refreshing to read of some positive happenings. Your news can contribute to that pleasant experience if you send your "good-news tidbits" before Monday afternoon to dbrosnan123@gmail.com, or call 541-676-5382 or 541-223-1490 or stop me on the street.

Here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

WEEKLY SHOPPER

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