



# CONSOLATA SHRINE

Seventeenth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

30th JULY 2017 - YEAR A

**"The Courage to Sell Off Everything"**



**FIRST READING**

**1 Kings 3:5.7-12**

***"You have asked for yourself understanding."***

**A reading from the first Book of Kings**

In those days: At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you."

***The word of the Lord***

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 119:57 & 72, 76-77, 127-130**

**Response. O Lord, how I love your law**

I have said, "O Lord, my portion  
is to obey your words."

The law from your mouth means more to me  
than large quantities of silver and gold. **(Response)**

Let your merciful love console me  
by your promise to your servant.  
Show me compassion, that I may live,  
for your law is my delight. **(Response)**

That is why I love your commands  
more than finest gold,  
why I rule my life by your precepts,  
and hate false ways. **(Response)**

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;  
therefore, my soul obeys them.  
The unfolding of your word gives light,  
and understanding to the simple. **(Response)**



## SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

*“He predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son.”*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

*The word of the Lord*



**Alleluia**

Blessed are you Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
that you have revealed to little ones the  
mysteries of the Kingdom.

**Alleluia**



## GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

*“He sells all that he has, and buys the field.”*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



Jesus said to the crowds, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of the fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who

brings out his treasure what is new and what is old.”

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## REFLECTION

**Treasures of the Kingdom by Dr. Scott Hahn, Ph.D.**

What is your new life in Christ worth to you?

Do you love His words more than gold and silver, as we sing in today’s Psalm? Would you, like the characters in the Gospel today, sell all that you have in order to possess the kingdom He promises to us? If God were to grant any wish, would you follow Solomon’s example

in today's First Reading—asking not for a long life or riches, but for wisdom to know God's ways and to desire His will? The background for today's Gospel, as it has been for the past several weeks, is the rejection of Jesus' preaching by Israel. The kingdom of heaven has come into their midst, yet many cannot see that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, a gift of divine compassion given that they—and we, too—might live. We too must ever discover the kingdom anew, to find it as a treasure - a pearl of great price. By comparison with the kingdom, we must count all else as rubbish (see Philippians 3:8). And we must be willing to give up all that we have—all our priorities and plans—in order to gain it. Jesus' Gospel discloses what Paul, in today's Epistle, calls the purpose of God's plan (see Ephesians 1:4). That purpose is that Jesus be the firstborn of many brothers. His words give understanding to the simple, the childlike. As Solomon does today, we must humble ourselves before God, giving ourselves to His service. Let our prayer be for an understanding heart, one that desires only to do His will. We are called to love God, to delight in His law, and to forsake every false way. And we are to conform ourselves daily ever more closely to the image of His Son. If we do this, we can approach His altar as a pleasing sacrifice, confident that all things work for the good—that we whom He has justified, will also one day be glorified.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. A Life in the Spirit Seminar organized by Charismatic group is ongoing. The seminar is being conducted every Sunday from 2pm to 5pm in the tent behind the nursery School. The Seminar is open to everyone. All are welcome.
2. We have begun a novena of 9 Saturdays to prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lady. The rosary with candles is being prayed every Saturday after the evening mass followed by a flowering to Our Lady and a Marian reflection.
3. Next Friday 4th August, is the first Friday of the Month. Night Vigil will start at 9.00pm and end up with a holy Mass. All are welcome.
4. Next Saturday 5th there is the Rosary Marathon in the Prayer Garden to pray for peaceful election and peace to prevail in our country before and after the election from 10am to 5pm.
5. Next Sunday 6th August, being the first Sunday of the month there is second collection of St Vincent de Paul to assist the poor of our parish.
6. Next Sunday also, we will have the Rosary being prayed in front of the Eucharist after the twelve o'clock Mass.
7. The Apostolate Committee is organizing the annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Subukia. The Pilgrimage will take place on 26th August. Registration will take place from next Sunday outside the church.
8. Those who registered for their Parishioner Cards are now available at the parish office and at the Desk outside the Church. Kindly pick your card.
9. The Construction of the Allamano Centre to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking is on-going. We kindly request you to stop by the tables at the entrances of the church and get detailed information about the project. We also invite you to give your contribution or make a pledge towards the project.
10. Consolata Shrine Raffle DONATE and WIN is reaching its last stage. The grand draw of the raffle will be this Monday 31st July 2017. Two smart phones and two Brand New Renault Kwids are to be won. The more you participate the more chances of winning! Remember the code is \*369\*2# or M-pesa Pay Bill 804877 and Account WIN.

### **WEEKLY MEETING**

- Communication Committee on Monday 31st at 6.15pm

## **FIFTH PRECEPT:**

“You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church”

The Church is indeed a divine institution, but it is also human. It exists in this world, and so it has need of the means to live and work in the world. The origins of this Precept lie in the Old Testament: the Jews were obliged to give ten per cent of the fruits of their fields, and produce, to the ministers – that is the Levites and the priests – as a tithe. Why ten per cent? Ten was seen as the “perfect” or “complete” number (think of the 10 commandments). So if ten stands for my complete income, whatever it may be, then it can be divided into ten parts (each of ten percent), and one whole part of my income I give to God. Here is the key to understanding the Precept: I have received everything I have from God, and so, each year, I return to him (in and through his Church), as a kind of sacrifice, a portion of what he has given me. The spiritual meaning of the Precept unfolds further if we turn to the New Testament. We see the zeal with which, in the Acts of the Apostles, the early Christians sold property and laid it at the feet of the Apostles (e.g. Acts 4:34-35). St Paul’s words ring out: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully” (2 Cor. 9:6). And reflect further: the giving of gifts binds us closer to others; so our contributions to the Church unite us more fully to our fellow Christians in the community of faith. What are “the needs of the Church”? Canon Law expands: we give material support to the Church for “those things which are necessary for divine worship, for apostolic and charitable work and for the worthy support of its ministers” (Code of Canon Law 222). The first is not to be forgotten: the worship of God – first of all church buildings, and then for the sacred liturgy. Apostolic work includes the whole mission of the church: including the administration of parishes, the support of poorer churches, and the proclamation of the faith. Charitable work (e.g. St Vincent de Paul) is the service of Christ in his poor. Finally, the clergy need to be supported. Well spent, our offerings can be of enormous value in assisting the mission of the Church. Does the practice of tithing still apply? Many Christians, past and present, have kept to this ancient and biblical practice. Ultimately, the Church does not specify any amount but leaves it to our decision. St Paul says: “Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:7) Does that mean no guidance at all? To those who ask, 3-5% of income has been suggested in this diocese. Could we give, additionally, a further 5% to charity? (Many good causes are supported by second collections.) These figures may sound high, but if they get us thinking seriously, including about how we spend our money in general, they serve their purpose. It has been said: “A person who has love for the Church will give an appropriate offering.” This parish continues to be a generous one. Individually, however much or little we have, the Precept reminds us that it is our Christian responsibility, indeed obligation, to support the Church.

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