

Saint Paul the Apostle Church

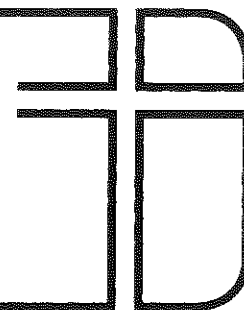
Conventual Franciscan Friars

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May Almighty God give you his peace as we prepare to gather for this 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Before looking previewing this Sunday's scriptural topics, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Knights of Columbus who organized the first rally in honor of Our Lady of Fatima and to Ginger Haney for organizing with her collaborators on the Coast to Coast Patriotic Rosary Rally which followed. May God bless and reward all of you who gave of your time and talent to setup, greet, and cleanup afterwards. Even though we had small numbers and hot weather to deal with, we still had a good moment of prayer invoking our Lady's intercession for the healing of our Church and Country. May Our Lady's powerful intercession and protection continue to embrace us all as we celebrate in this month of October the Most Holy Rosary.

Our readings today, present us with two famous rulers to think about: Cyrus the Great and Tiberius Caesar. Isaiah describes Cyrus as God's anointed, even though Cyrus is not even Jewish. Cyrus conquered Babylon, whereby the Jewish people are liberated marking the end of their Babylonian Exile (*Isaiah 45: 1, 4 – 6*).

"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" (Matthew 22: 15 – 21). For three consecutive weeks we listened to parables addressed to the Pharisees and today Jesus does not speak in a parable, but does no doubt infuriate the Pharisees and Herodians who joined them in their attempt to entrap Jesus.

Jesus knew very well that he was being boxed into a tight corner because if he says pay the tax, he will be seen as endorsing an oppressive political system, but if he says don't pay it, then he is seen as advocating the overthrow of the political system. Ultimately, the Pharisees and Herodians condemn themselves by producing the coin and stating whose image is on it when Jesus asks them. Jesus did not have the coin in his possession, but anyone who did endorsed an oppressive political system. Jesus words indict them for their inordinate concern about money over what ought to be a concern for the things of God. This indictment should strike at us also challenging us to look at what our concerns are. Do we worry more about money, power, or God? Are we sincere of heart, or are we scheming to justify and see how we can get our way?

In preparation for our gathering inside the church for our Sunday Masses, I have the following friendly reminders for everyone to please consider as you prepare to come to our church for Mass. The only entrance into the church is through the main entrance on Bello Street. The side doors are to be used only for leaving the church. If for whatever reason you need to excuse yourself from the church temporarily and return, you can only return by entering from the main entrance doors on Bello Street.

Please be advised that only 100 people will be admitted into the church on a first come, first served basis and that **BEFORE ENTERING THE CHURCH** your temperature will be taken and you must have a face mask on and continue to wear it the entire time you are in the church.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF ANYONE IS ILL OR OVER THE AGE OF 65 WITH PREEXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS THAT COMPROMISE ONE'S IMMUNITY AND CONCERNED ABOUT BEING IN A LARGE GATHERING OF PEOPLE, THE DISPENSATION FROM THE SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION IS STILL IN EFFECT AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Let us not only pray for the healing of those infected with the virus, but for everyone starting with ourselves to have the discipline to follow the public health mandates designed to keep us all safe and healthy. I am very proud of our parish community and how we have and are complying.

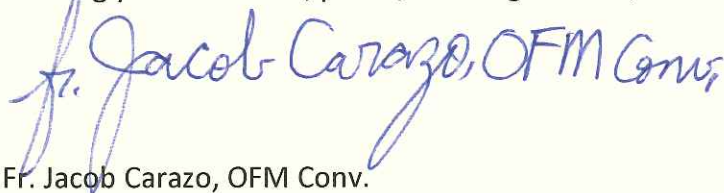
Our parish website <https://www.stpaulspismobeach.com> contains the most recent weekly bulletin, links to the Livestreamed Daily Mass and Online Mass on Sundays, as well as links to my weekly message to you, updates from Bishop Garcia and myself as they become available, and a safe user-friendly option for online giving.

If you need assistance with the online giving system, please contact our Parish Administrative Assistant Christopher Garza at admin@stpaulspismobeach.com as well at his direct telephone extension **(805)773-2219 Ext. 102**.

For those of you unable to make it to Mass at this time and wish to continue sending in your weekly contribution you may continue do so by the US Mail, dropping it off at the Rectory using the Rectory door mail slot, or using the online giving option described above. In order to keep an accurate record of your offerings, please include your weekly contributions envelope as well as write it on the check. No donation is too small and all are joyfully received with great gratitude.

May all of you have a blessed Sunday and week ahead.

Wishing you God's love, peace, and all goodness,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv." The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Fr.", "Jacob", and "Conv." being capitalized and prominent.

Fr. Jacob Carazo, OFM Conv.

Pastor