



## **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in the Ordinary Time**

The prophet Isaiah reveals that God's ways are not ours. His mercy is eternal and He is generous with His people. The Psalmist sings; *"The Lord is near to all who call on Him."* *Imagine that in all the joys and sorrows we face, the Lord is near if we call to Him. God is faithful and remains with us throughout everything we endure. When moments of loneliness come to us, the Scriptures remind us how close the Lord is.*

The parable told by Jesus, recorded in Matthew's gospel reveals something of the Father's nature. He shows no partiality. God loves every one of His children equally. The story told speaks of the Master who lifts up those who might be considered last and offers as a lesson for all the mercy given and expected of those who believe. This theme of the last first and the first last is repeated by Christ many times in the gospels. It is not meant to degrade those who work hard and are faithful. Rather it calls on believers to cherish one another. The disciple of Jesus is marked by the posture of placing the other ahead of himself/herself.

When feelings of resentment arise in us about those who don't seem to earn God's favor, remember that God's ways are not ours. How fortunate we are to know that God is near to ALL who call upon Him.

Peace,

**Fr. Robert**