



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

The message of Jesus presented in today's Gospel recorded in the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of St. Matthew comes in the form of another parable. The Landowner, his vineyard and his servants. The story tells of the reception the Landowner's messengers received from the tenants. One beaten, another killed and the third stoned. More servants were sent and treated in the same way. Finally, he sends his son believing that he will be treated with respect. The Landowner's son was seized and killed as well.

The metaphor used by Jesus was to foretell His own fate. He mentions those who preceded the son to indicate how the prophets were treated including John the Baptist. He quotes the Scripture regarding the stone rejected by the builders which becomes the cornerstone on which everything else is built. For some this cornerstone is a stumbling block even to this very day. In our present time many still reject the Lord. His message presents an unwelcomed challenge to many. Free will allows for this rejection. God is faithful and allows this precious freedom to be used in whatever manner one chooses. The parable indicates a reckoning day of sorts when the Master brings to judgement those who reject Him and His message.

In today's liturgy the Scripture still presents hope. St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians assures the community and urges them to worry not but rather let our minds be filled with what is true, honorable, upright and pure. If we do this then Paul promises the God of Peace will be with us.

Peace,

*Fr. Robert*