

August 8, 2010 • Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

When we think of figures in the Hebrew scriptures who prefigure Christ, we often think of Isaac, nearly sacrificed by his father, Abraham. Many great Christian scripture commentators have written eloquently on the sacrifice of Isaac prefiguring the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Today, in the Letter to the Hebrews, we are given a somewhat obscure but very profound foreshadowing of Christ in another ancient figure from the Hebrew scriptures: Abraham. The author of Hebrews, writing to a Jewish-Christian community, calls Abraham a man "as good as dead" (Hebrews 11:12) who still lived on through descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands on the seashore. At a time when Jews and Christians alike were marginalized and persecuted in the Roman empire, these words about a numerous and strong people coming from a man who had been counted "as good as dead" would have been comforting indeed.

OUR VOCATION: BE READY, BE FAITHFUL

Both Abraham and Jesus were obedient in faith to the call of God. Both went on long, hard journeys and faced many challenges before claiming their final destinies in God's plan. The Genesis accounts of Abraham tell us he was a man filled with both questions and faith. He knew that faith and certitude were two different things. Even Jesus, in his final hours in the garden, wondered if there might be a different way for God's will to be done. But he, like Abraham, was ready and prepared to take whatever journey God might demand and face whatever challenges that journey might contain. As we listen to Jesus addressing his disciples today, we hear his words enter our own lives, guiding the destiny of our own vocations. We are not to be afraid, for God has given us the kingdom. We are to focus ourselves solely on the things of God's kingdom, not on our earthly possessions and desires. We are, above all, to be prepared and live our calling, our journey, faithfully in joyful readiness for the coming of the reign of God, the eternal reign of the One who called us.

Today's Readings: Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 [8-12]; Lk 12:32-48 [35-40]

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The Church of St. John the Martyr

Church: 250 E. 72nd St., •Phone: 212-744-4880

Carmelite Priory and Mailing Address: 259 E. 71st St., New York, NY 10021

WEB: www.saintjohnthemartyr.com



SUNDAY MASSES: Sat. 5:30pm, Sun. 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm, 5:30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES: 7:30am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm

SATURDAY MASSES: 9:00am, 12:15pm, 5:30pm

CONFESSIONS: Saturday - 4:30pm to 5:00 pm

BAPTISMS AND MARRIAGES: Kindly make arrangements at the Priory

OFFICE HOURS—259 E 71st St.—10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm (M-F)



**19th Sunday
in Ordinary Time
August 8, 2010**

Aliens in a Strange Land

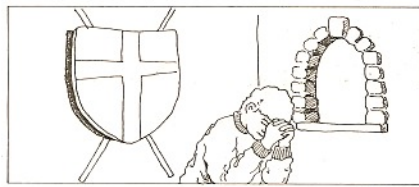
"Star Trek" was an amazingly popular TV series, with all its spin-offs and movies. Often they'd send the crew back in time, and Captain Picard or Counsellor Troi would end with a wise statement about how we must know our history in order to prepare for our future.

Our Christian future emerged out of the strong faith of our Hebrew ancestors, starting with Abraham and Sarah. We should pay attention to them if we want to know how to go into the future. Because Abraham and Sarah listened when God spoke and did what God asked them to do. Instead of maps and a GPS, they fixed their eyes on the future God promised them.

Even when God's promises seemed impossible, Sarah and Abraham kept their faith. Our Hebrew ancestors died before they saw the promised future in full-but as St. Paul says, they "saw (the future) and greeted it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth."

Wait a minute: we are the strangers and aliens? I hope that's not a scary thought, because it means that this is not our real home. St. Paul says we need to "desire a better homeland, a heavenly one," as our ancestors did. We are not owners on this earth-we are merely renters.

God calls us to get up each day and "boldly go where no one has gone before"--on a mission into the unknown future with Jesus. "Do not be afraid-but stay awake-remember your duty-and be ready the hour the master returns." That could be the hour of critical decision-making, the hour of death, or the hour of the Lord's return-just fix your eyes on God's promises, and believe in God's faithfulness.



Stewardship

“Continuing Our Journey Together”

1st Collection, , Aug. 1, 2010: \$2,975.00
From ParishPay per Week in August: \$1,088.00
Total 1st Collection, August 1, 2010: \$4,063.00
1st Collection, August 2, 2009: \$5,028.00

Generous giving is an expression of our gratitude to God for our homes, our jobs, our families and friends . Thank you.

To sign-up for ParishPay please go to:
www.paritypay.com

Our Parish Personnel

Carmelite Friars:

Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm., Pastor
Fr. Sunny John, O.Carm, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Paul Feeley, O.Carm., In Residence
Fr. Sunny Mathew, O.Carm., In Residence

Director Music Ministry:

Anne Holland

Secretary/Admin. Ass't.:

Rosael Ramos

Custodian:

Michael Piñeda

Schedule of Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday after Mass

Rosary: Daily at 12:00 Noon

Legion of Mary: Wed., 6:00 p.m. at the Rectory

Benediction: First Friday after 12:15 Mass

Sacrament of the Sick

If there is a person in your family who is ill, chronically sick, confined to home, growing weaker or disabled, he or she should receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Please have a family member call the Parish Office if you would like a priest to visit and bring Communion to the sick or to administer the Sacrament of the Sick.

Adult Formation

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Are You A Catholic Who Wants To Be Confirmed?

Check out classes being held for adult Catholics who have not been confirmed. Classes are being held at 2 locations:

St. Vincent Ferrer Church

Lexington and 66th Street

Classes are held at 4 PM on Sundays

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

90th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues

Classes are held at 7:30 PM on Thursdays

Don't worry if you miss a class. All are welcome to join at any time.

Come and Learn. No Pressure.

For more information, please call 212-734-9758.

Prayer Chain

Are you in need of prayer or is one of your loved ones in need of prayer? Send your prayer requests to the prayer chain. Many emergencies, illnesses & petitions come up needing ongoing prayer. The prayer chain consists of a group of people who will willingly pray for the needs of our parishioners on a daily basis. E-mail any prayer requests you have to

sjmprayerchain@gmail.com.

You may also contact the church office at 212-744-4880 if you do not have access to e-mail.

Prayer Intention Book

On last Pentecost Sunday, the Committee in charge of our Prayer Chain and one of our parishioners, donated a book to be used for Parishioner's Prayer Intentions. Please feel free to use it. It is on the shelf attached to the back of the last pew and it has a red leather cover. Simply write in your prayer intentions.

Mass Intentions

There are many openings on our Mass schedule for special intentions. Please recall that we remember the dead in our prayers in a special way when we have a Mass celebrated for their intention. We remain united with them in the Communion of the Saints. They are helped by our prayers as we are helped by theirs. Come to the office and reserve a Mass time for friends and family members. There are plenty of empty spaces.

Mass Intentions for this week

Aug. 8 Sun

12:30 PM Sarah Ridolfi

Aug. 9 Mon

12:15 PM Ralph Bram Caccio

Aug. 10 Tue.

7:30 AM Coleffe Levi

12:15 PM Alfonso Diaz Granados

5:30PM Fran Murphy

Aug. 11 Wed.

12:15 PM Mary Normoyle

Aug. 12 Thur.

12:15PM Leo Leyden

Aug. 13 Fri.

12:15 PM Priscilla Costenbaden

Aug. 14 Sat.

12:15 PM James W. Manousos