

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 23rd 2018.

Theme:

Introduction

ENVY and JEALOUSY are the subjects of television programs ,//soap operas// Movie Plots//and are part of our own personal landscape as well.-- Envy and Jealousy in my life, are what GOD wants to talk to each one of us in HIS SCRIPTURES to us this morning/evening. Everyone of us here, including Fr. John, has a MONOPLY of ENVY and JEALOUSY in my life, regardless if I feel conscious of it or not. Any person here who does NOT BELIEVE, I am sometimes driven in my life,// deep down ,// by my Jealousy and Envy:// "I am fooling myself NOW!!! Nobody else is here is FOOLing Me. I am FOOLING Myself."

CENTER

FIRST READING

IN the First Reading today, taken from His Book Of WISDOM,--- GOD,--- speaking to

each one of us here, shows us, how wicked people,-- hurt the good person,-- IT is a kind of preview of Christ's Passion.--- Remember,-- educating,-- and UNDERSTANDING myself,-- my PERSONAL HISTORY,-- why I have behaved and acted that way in the past, in my life,-- is a sure PREDICTOR,-- of my PRESENT,-- and my FUTURE BEHAVIOR. Doing that INNER WORK on MYSELF, --and making that important inner journey,-- of understanding myself,--- is key into my LIFE.

SECOND READING

Our Second Reading today, from the Letter of St. James--- is about the early Christian Community, our Christian Ancestors,-- being ripped APART,___ by ENVY and JEALOUSY. The Gospel today, is about a kind of JEALOUSY,---among the APOSTLES, as to who is really ,the GREATEST among them,--who is closest to Christ.

ENVY/JEALOUSY

Sometimes we use ENVY and JEALOUSY to mean the same thing. At other times people separate them into two separate attitudes.

ENVY is about wanting what someone else has--- such as money ,--- property,---a car,---a job—or friendships. We not only wish what they possess but even wish they would lose it and at its worst,we take steps that occurs.

ENVY has to do with what belongs to someone else. Envy has been called the vice of COUNTING someone else's blessings rather than my own.

JEALOUSY is about what we have, but I worry that a rival will take it from me. JEALOUSY ALWAYS NEEDS A RIVAL. We can be JEALOUS about a RELATIONSHIP,--- about our PREROGATIVES ,---ABOUT MY POSITION AT WORK ,--- I am AFRAID that SOMEONE will take my JOB away from me. I become jealous then of the PERSON I see as a THREAT. That's why JEALOUSY is the cause of many" crimes of passion" as they are called, as a person eliminates what he/ she sees as a threat to something valuable.

Both ENVY and JEALOUSY twist my soul out of shape. They are one of the SEVEN

CAPITAL SINS, that medieval writers said were express lanes to hell. It certainly is true that Jealousy or ENVY can turn my life into a kind of hell on earth. Somebody once remarked that unlike the capital sins, such as GLUTTONY, ---LUST---OR PRIDE that give some momentary pleasure,--- ENVY and JEALOUSY are always sheer torment in my life. ENVY has been called "The GREEN EYED MONSTER" .GREEN is a color associated with illness . ENVY or JEALOUSY can make us so sick,--- that we can't even think straight or--- even see straight. We become unable to see any good in the people we ENVY or about whom we are JEALOUS.

THE words of the LORD';s PRAYER, WHICH we will pray together moments from now "forgive as we FORGIVE" begin to carry an internal asterisk, to exclude certain people,-- whom we ENVY or of whom we are JEALOUS. That asterisk empties our prayer of TRUTH. We become so busy looking at others we forget we are called to follow Christ. The greatest in the Kingdom of GOD are those who follow the Lord and not others. Then we

**discover a peak of grace that comes as when
the storm within me subsides It is the PEACE
of CHRIST. AMEN**