



**October 14, 2012**

**Twenty-eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*Jesus said "how hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"*

*Mark 10:23*

Dear Friends;

In the land of Jesus, there are two major bodies of water—the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. The Sea of Galilee really is not a Sea but a large fresh water lake. It is fed by the Jordan River to the north and water flows out in the Jordan River to the south. It is continually exchanging fresh water in and out. It is alive and teeming with fish. Many communities from ancient times were located on its shores.

The other major body of water is the Dead Sea it only takes. Water comes from the Jordan River but it goes no farther. The water becomes brackish and not much lives in and around it. It takes but does not give.

In Mark's Story of the rich young man it is not the man's wealth that is the problem but the unwillingness to share that causes the problem. It was his unwillingness to give to those who had less than he which is the problem—in a word "greed." It was not that the man was rich but he was greedy. Like the Dead Sea he took and possessed but was not willing to share.

Jesus came proclaiming a new order for the world—the reign of God. The reign of God is a place where the least and lowest have priority of concern. All are equal before God and all share in a communion of life. All give and receive equally in an economy of love.

I once heard someone define the word economy as a "distribution of wealth." The word "economy" itself comes from two Greek words meaning "household management." In others words how do we manage the goods we have for the benefit of the whole. In a family if there is not a fair distribution of goods the life and health of the family will be affected. Each member must be concerned for the life and health of the others.

Children instinctively know this. They will immediately let you know when someone else is hoarding or hogging something—like all the cookies. Children instinctively want a fair share, especially if their share is left out. And parents know that it is important for the development of the children to learn to share—for the sake of the child and for the family as a whole.

Catholic teaching, based on the Gospel has always insisted that we do not have an absolute right to our goods and possessions. They are first for our use and our family. Over and above what we need is given for us to share with the greater household of the human family.

We live in difficult economic times. The challenge we are facing is how do we distribute the goods of society in ways that benefit everyone in the household? Do we want to be an economy that is living and dynamic giving and receiving in a household of care? Or do we want an economy of everyone for themselves taking as much as they can in a brackish dead end?

In the first reading King Solomon praises wisdom is to be desired before all else. There is a legend that a powerful king came to Solomon the wise to ask for a motto for the King to live by. It had to be useful in good and prosperous times as in bad times. So Solomon gave him the motto, "All this too, shall pass away."

Today's Scriptures challenge us to learn how to use our goods talents and spiritual gifts in life giving ways that lead us closer to household of God's caring love.

Peace,

*Fr. Ron*