

## **Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for November 19 2017**

**Vocations:** Last week I wrote about vocations, particularly with respect to the priesthood. Today I want to talk about vocations more generally. Each and every one of us has a vocation, that is a calling from God. We live out our vocations in our homes and with our families, in our workplaces, in the community and nation, and of course in the way we pray and serve together as a Church. I was originally planning to start with how we live out our vocations in the home, but an experience I had at daily Mass has convinced me otherwise. When we were receiving the gifts at offertory the server on my left said "thank you" as I handed her the cruet of wine. We are in the habit of thanking those bringing forth the gifts from the congregation, but I had not expected to hear the altar server, in turn thanking me as I passed the gifts on to her. Her thanksgiving highlighted a very important aspect of our Eucharistic Celebration. Each moment of prayer, each sharing of the gifts, is a moment of Thanksgiving. This is what we are about in our vocation to celebrate the Mass. We are giving thanks to God for all he has given us, and for the great gift of our vocation to share those same gifts with others.

**Readings for next week:** Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28; Matthew 25 31-46

**Reflection:** A famous preacher once suggested that every good homily could be summarized up with one short sentence, "Do good and avoid evil". The phrase is attractive, both in its honesty and its simplicity. It is, however, often more complicated than it looks. As children, most of us learned to equate avoiding evil with doing good. To be a 'good' boy or girl meant doing what one was told and staying out of trouble. There was little expectation that we seek out opportunities for doing good. Jesus calls us to maturity. No longer is it enough to do good only where the need has been pointed out to us. A mature Christian is on the watch, a shepherd always seeking out the lost, the hungry, the stranger, the one in need of comfort. A failure to recognize the one in need is no excuse. It is our job to find them, invite them, and welcome them home.

1. Who would you say is most easily left out in our culture or church?

2. Spend this week consciously looking for those who may feel left out or in need of comfort.

**Prayer:** Jesus, we bless you for giving us the ears to hear your call to holiness. Give us also the eyes to see those you call us to serve, and the hearts to feel their need. May we become your blessing, Lord, the voice of your call to each other.