

Twenty Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

My beloved brothers and sisters, in the past month and one half, we have seen unprecedented tragedy with the hurricanes, the earthquake in Mexico and now, the mass killing and wounding of people in Las Vegas. The immediate trend of the news services was to begin to politicize everything. That doesn't help, and it doesn't answer the questions that many people have that often question God's goodness and even whether there is a God at all,; or if there is, does He even care? Often, when terrible things happen, people get angry at God, and ask: why does He allow bad things to happen: however, very few people ask the most important question: In the midst of a sinful, broken world, that often times seems very dark and filled with evil people doing evil things; why do good things happen? Why is there any good in the world at all? And, where did this good come from?

My beloved brothers and sisters, evil was never the intention of our Good God and creator, whose goodness and intention for beauty are visible all around us. Evil is the work of those who are opposed to the works of God and His goodness; who have sown evil into the great and wonderful Garden, or Vineyard He has grown and given to us for our stewardship and care. Evil is the work of an evil genius who is absolutely opposed to the Goodness and beauty of God's will and work in the world and in our lives! God has created the Garden and put us in it to tend to it, to enable it to be healthy, beautiful and bountiful, to bear abundant fruit. God has created us to be fruitful and beautiful stewards of all His works; He has supplied each one of us with the life, talents opportunities, family, sacraments, faith, knowledge, conscience, and guidance of the Gospels and His Church, that are necessary to make the Vineyard He has planted flourish! There is no good in the world nor in our lives that was not intended and originated by our Good God and Father. The great good news of the Gospel, is that God cares so very much, that He will not allow those bent upon evil to destroy what He has begun, and so, He has given us His Son!

The readings tell us that God gives many, many chances to the tenants of His Vineyards, you and me, to do the right thing, to fulfill our duties of stewardship of

the good things that He has entrusted to us, especially to Great Good of His life within us and all its blessings! Do you count your blessings and act upon them, or take them for granted? God sends His messengers to us to call us back to our responsibility: are we listening? God has sent His Son to us, to show us the way into fruitful, happy and joy-filled lives: are we truly listening to Him and doing our best to follow Him? God is infinitely patient with our sin and selfishness, but our Good God and Father also reminds us that He is just, evil will be judged and it will have its end! God never gives up on us in this life- but we must not take His mercy and goodness and call to repentance for granted! He never gives up on us, but there are many, who are not listening to Him but listening to the evil one, they do the evil that so shocks us! God is boundless in His mercy and infinite in His Merc? Are we allowing Him to draw us fully, completely and irrevocably into this mystery of mercy by using all of the means He gives us to live it?