

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.

## Dear Parents and Parishioners,

The Gospel that you will hear today from Mark (Mk 7:31-37) has its parallel in Matthew (Mt. 15: 29-31) It is instructive to compare these two presentations of the same event but with different flavors given by Mark and Matthew. In Mark the deaf man is taken off by himself and cured. Then comes Jesus statement not to tell anyone about what has happened. But clearly, the people hear about this and begin to proclaim it widely. Commentators consider that Mark's insistence that Jesus not be identified is more Mark's thinking that Christ full identity will only be revealed in the cross and Resurrection.

Matthew's account has a significant difference. The crowds brought him not one person but the lame, the crippled, the blind, the dumb, and many others. He cured them all. The people's response was a great praise of the God of Israel for giving such power to this man. Matthew has no statement to "keep quiet."

This example indicates the importance of not reading and trying to understand only the words of the Gospel, but to understand how the evangelists have taken Jesus stories to fit into their presentation about Jesus. Jesus cannot be captured by one writer. We read the Gospels over and over again because they are layered with meaning and depth by the four evangelists guided by the Holy Spirit.

### Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and Choice

Archbishop Hunthausen died July 22, 2018 at age 96. A superb athlete, a scientist, and later President of Carroll College in Montana, he was a leader. He became the Archbishop of Seattle in 1975 and spoke and acted strongly on social issues. This excerpt deals with abortion.

**“To approach abortion as though it were simply a matter of personal choice is to distort the issue at hand. While we may be dealing with a matter of choices, the fact is that there are some choices which society must disallow; in this instance, the taking of an innocent human life.**

**Similar limitations are placed on such “choice” as sexual abuse of children and racial discrimination...that some people and some societies choose these courses of action does not mean that they can be chosen with impurity under the guise of “individual freedom”. The primary issue before us is not freedom of choice, but whether we should take innocent human life. For the sake of our own intellectual honesty and moral integrity as a society, let us keep that issue clearly before us”.**

Statement urging public support of Initiative 471, November 1985

### Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith and Special Youth Event and Confirmandi Session

The Directed Reading Course Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith, will begin again on Saturday, September 22, at 10:30 AM in the rectory. This course is fitted for those interested in learning about the Catholic Faith, possibly becoming catholic, or seeking more information about the Catholic Faith. The four sessions are slated for (all Saturdays) September 22, October 13, October 27, and November 10.

The special youth event hosted by James and Felicia Davies is set for September 23, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. This is open to our youth in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through high school but it is especially directed toward the students preparing for Confirmation. A sign-up sheet for this event is in the rear of the church so that our hosts may prepare properly.

The Confirmandi as a group will meet in Gaudete Hall on September 16, following the 10:30 AM Mass. Parents of the Confirmandi may also attend but it is not required for them. The meeting will end by about 1:00 PM.