

SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MATTHEW 21:28-32

I can remember that when I was a child (there were five of us!), my mother would call to those of us in the living room that she needed something brought in from the car, or that she needed the kitchen swept, or some other chore done. She would always start with - "Would one of you ?" My brother would invariably be the one to get up and go take care of whatever Mother wanted. One day, Mother came into the living and said, "Vincent has begun to think his name is 'One of You' *Diane*, get up and go_____." The days of sliding by were over!

This section from Matthew's gospel speaks of the heritage of the two groups in Matthew's community: the Jewish Christians who had the privilege of being the first called into the vineyard of the Covenant and who often slid by their commitment to Yahweh, and the Greek Christians who had lived a pagan history in ancient times, but as Christians chose to be faithful believers. Jesus' story affirms the believer, even if he/she doesn't have a believer's heritage, but includes that believing is not just a verbal assent or an intellectual exercise. He doesn't want *any* of his disciples to get into the bad habit of agreeing to work in the vineyard of the Reign of God and then falling by the wayside. Believing includes doing—going into the vineyard of the Reign of God and living a converted life. A believer can never be the same as he or she was before conversion. Conversion changes everything. For the true believer, there can be no turning back!

--Sr. Diane Langford, CDP

For reflection or sharing:

- ▲ Every one of us has regrets about things we promised to do but never actually got around to. Choose something you continue to feel regretful about, make amends, and move on! The Reign of God is now!

Oct. 1, 1878 ... Fr. Jean-Martin Moye, founder of the Sisters of Divine Providence in France in 1763, entered the Foreign Missionary Seminary in Paris for his year of probation into the Society of Foreign Missionary Priests.

A directive for entering into contemplative sitting prayer....

Sit and breathe in with the words "Fear no one." Exhale with these words silently flowing: "Nothing without Abwoon's knowledge" (Aramaic word that Jesus would have used for God: Father, Birther, Father-Mother of the cosmos. Pronunciation: Ah-bw-oo-n). Spend some time simply breathing in this way. Allow a deep inner movement to gift you with any directions for implementing the words of today's Gospel "*Do not be intimidated by those who may kill the body.*" In like manner, breathe in with the words "all hairs are counted" and exhale with the words "I am rooted in confidence" ... Let God be God!

--From a reflection written by Sr. Jackie Kingsbury, CDP which was not used because of how the Liturgical Calendar for 2010-2011 is.