

TURNING ORDINARY TIME INTO EXTRAORDINARY TIME

The liturgical calendar tells us that we are in "Ordinary Time." The current period of ordinary time, from the Monday after Pentecost to the First Sunday of Advent, extends for twenty-eight weeks. It is ordinary time in that it is ordered or numbered time, as in today's designation as the "Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time."

This liturgical season, with its long days of summer and weeks of vacation, can be a season of growing and maturing in our faith. It provides us with time to meditate upon all the gifts that we have been given by our loving Father. We are stewards of everything that we have and every ability with which we have been blessed. Our Father expects us to share these gifts with others for the building of His Kingdom in South Lawrence.

Each one of us has a unique set of gifts that equips us to further our discipleship in Jesus Christ by doing His work. Matthew 25 tells what is expected of us: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."

As we enjoy the relaxation of the coming summer days, let's put that time to good use by determining how we, as good stewards, can better use our gifts of time, talent and treasure to concretely care for those with whom we have contact.

Jesus challenges us to manifest our love for Him in the same words that he spoke to Simon Peter: "Do you love me? [then] Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep."

Reflecting on ways that we can love the Lord, through service to our brothers and sisters in need, can truly turn ordinary time into extraordinary time.

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