



Society of African Missions

23 Bliss Avenue
 Tenafly, NJ 07670
 Phone: 201-567-0450
 Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Local Superior:

Fr. Anbu Kumar, SMA

Provincial Superior:

Fr. Michael Moran, SMA.

If you invite one of our priests out to perform a sacramental function please make sure he is informed.
 201-567-0450 x 218

Mass Schedule

Sundays

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

8:00 am; 9:30 am; 11:45 am

Christmas & New Year's Day

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12:00 noon

Confessions

Saturdays 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Anbu Kumar

201-567-0450 Ext 204

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Rosary

Every Wednesday at 11:00 am

Followed by Mass, Adoration and Benediction at 5:30 pm

The Little Way of St. Therese of Lisieux

2nd Sundays after 12 pm Mass

Bible Reflection Group

Thursdays: 7:30 pm in the hall

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA

551-449-4357

Sunday Collections: \$1,018

Thank you for your support.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of FEBRUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 23, 2019

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of SMA	
Sun. Feb. 17	10:00	Eileen Neary+	James Neary
	12:00	John Hamill+	Daughter
Mon. Feb. 18	9:30	Special Intention	Breda/Benny Walsh
	11:45	Msgr. Vincent Bartley +	Martha Paladino
Tue. Feb. 19	9:30	Annie Gallagher+	James Neary
	11:45	Catherine & Richards Santure+	Robin
Wed. Feb. 20	9:30	Catherine Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Doctor David Rosenfeld (Living, Sick)	Victoria Ann Costa
Thurs. Feb. 21	9:30	Bill Moran+, Death Anniversary	Jinnie Moran
	11:45	Christopher/Alexa Cortez (Liv), Special intention	Erlinda Cortez
Fri. Feb. 22	9:30	Mary/Joseph Falotico+	
	11:45	William Portmann+ & Michael Supper (Liv)	Michelle Supper
Sat. Feb. 23	9:30	Louis J Morelli+	Maria Morelli (Wife)
	11:45	Angelo Ponte+	Martha Paladino

Today's Readings

First Reading Jeremiah 17:5-8

There are two types of people: those who put their trust in human beings; and the others who trust in God.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20

If Christ has not been raised from the dead, you are still in your sins.

Gospel Luke 6:17. 20-26

Blessings on those who have to depend on God; woe to those who rely on worldly things.

LENTEN RETREAT

Theme: JOEL 2:13

Fr Patrick Kroteh

Saturday, March 9

9am—11:45am

The Mission's Hall

“Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy.”

The beatitudes, as found in today’s gospel reading, have often been misunderstood and used to encourage the suffering and dispossessed to endure bravely their pitiable plights, confident that they will be highly blessed after death. Such an interpretation has also been used to exonerate others from working to alleviate the pains of those suffering or from changing the circumstances that cause it, for they might claim that those suffering are thereby closer to God. Anyone who understands these passages in such a way does not appreciate their Wisdom character, nor the way Jesus shifts it ever so slightly.

The reading from Jeremiah and the psalm response are clear examples of Wisdom teaching. They contrast two ways of living: the way of happiness or beatitude and the way of unhappiness or misfortune. This teaching suggests that good actions will lead to flourishing and evil actions will experience accountability. We all understand this teaching. Both Jeremiah and the psalmist add a religious flavor to this Wisdom teaching. They argue that authentic, wise living consists in commitment to God, which results in genuine happiness; conversely, it is foolish to turn away from God and in so doing bring on any manner of discontent or misfortune.

The beatitudes in the gospel passage are based on this Wisdom teaching. However, Jesus uses this approach to teach another message. He is not merely speaking about living in society, so the issue is not the obvious question of poverty or hunger or weeping. Nor is he referring to one’s basic commitment to God, so it is not a question of flourishing or accountability. Rather, he is talking about the hatred, exclusion, insult and denunciation people might have to face because they are his followers. He states that people could suffer precisely because they are his disciples. Here Jesus promises that if they remain faithful to him, despite the hardships this might engender, their “reward will be great in heaven.” Such a reward is not promised because they are poor or hungry or weeping or hated, but that they are faithful.

This way of reading the passage is not meant to discount the plight of those who actually suffer. These beatitudes do promise that they will be lifted up; their hunger will be satisfied; and they will be joyous. While they are promised reward in heaven, what is being promised here are all blessings that take place on earth. How are these sufferers to be blessed? It is at this point that Christian responsibility enters the picture. Those who suffer will experience God’s embrace through the loving care of other members of the body of Christ. This is the way God seems to work; this is the way the reign of God is brought forth on earth.

So, a careful reading of this gospel challenges us in at least two ways. It encourages us to remain faithful to Jesus regardless of the price that might be exacted of us. It directs us to be the instruments through which God heals our broken and struggling world.

Dianne Bergant, CSA, is Carroll Stuhlmüller, CP, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois.



THE SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS American Province

**Joyfully announces the Transitional Diaconate Ordination of
Michael P. Bova**

Saturday, March 2, 2019 St Anthony’s Chapel 11:45am Mass

