

Father Rudy's Reflections
The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 30, 2023
The Treasure of our Faith

Jesus is our one and only treasure

My Sisters and Brothers in the Risen Lord,

It seems in this fast-paced, ever-changing world, we have reasons to cling onto those things that make us feel connected to something or someone that gives us a sense of permanence and inexpressible peace of mind. They are our treasures, and we hold onto them in our hearts without much thought as to why they mean so much to us. For example, some of us as children or even adults, retain a treasure box filled with items we have collected over the years that help us relive wonderful moments in our lives. From a concert ticket to a colorful trinket, we might look inside the box at random moments, and they carry us back to a special day we cherish. This memory is unique to us, alone, and it is rich with nostalgia tugging at our heartstrings, isn't it?

Ask yourself: *What are your treasures in life and should they be your focus?* Too often our priorities become askew, and we tend to value things that are not valuable. For instance, accumulation, whether it be success, wealth, power, or other earthly ambitions, is fleeting and can only make our hearts sing temporarily or without being satiated. Indeed, they are just trinkets, like the objects in a treasure box. But, as some of us know, having Christ in your life. . .*now, that is a treasure!*

On this Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we continue our journey in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus continues to speak in parables about the kingdom of God and our call to discipleship, bathed in his light and promise. *Jesus gave us everything* to restore our salvation: he is our treasured pearl and we are his. It is in this relationship with him that he will sustain us, help us, and bestow on us happiness. It is written in today's Gospel that some of us will search for him actively and some of us will come upon him unexpectedly. Yet, he is always there waiting for us to take his hand and change our lives for the better. He alone can offer us permanence and indescribable joy; he alone gives us grace, purpose, and the means to structure our lives toward heaven. *He, truly, is our one and only treasure.*

"Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure is, there is your heart; where your heart is, there is your happiness."—St. Augustine

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy