



Homily for
THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
22/23 October, 2016

Deacon Jim's homily follows....

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 22&23, 2016
Holy Ghost Church**

“I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.”

Words from St. Paul in our second reading today. (2Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18)

When I was younger I used to go up to Senior High School and run around the track that encircles the football field...in those days it was a cinder track.

One time as I was running I thought of the track with hurdles...I thought of running and jumping the hurdles. I thought what if I came up short and my foot caught a hurdle and I fell in the cinders?

I would have a decision to make.

I could lay there and feel sorry for myself...feel bad about myself...

feel that I failed...or... I could pick myself up, brush myself off, and continue to run.

I would have a decision to make.

Sin is to miss the mark, to fail to love, to fail to relate as Jesus wants us to.

It is to catch our foot on a hurdle and fall.

If we were to live the scriptures for today, we would have to pick ourselves up, brush ourselves off, and continue to compete well, finish the race, keep the faith.

We could, in our lowliness, realize that “The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; It does not rest till it reaches its goal.”

(in our 1st reading...Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18)

And we could take the position of the tax collector in the Gospel and pray,

“O God, be merciful to me a sinner.” (Luke 18: 9-14)

We are always being called to start anew...to compete well...finish the race...
keep the faith.

We can't compete well...finish the race...keep the faith...alone.

-we need Jesus...received from this altar...at Mass...the Eucharist.

-we need community...each other...for encouragement...for support...
for inspiration.

-we need to experience the reality that we are family...

brothers and sister of each other.

-and we need special events...oases...on our journey across the desert of life
to the promise land.

A spiritual oasis is a place of renewal, refreshment,
water (grace), and strengthening.

-wherever we are at on our journey of faith...we need oases.

We are in an oasis right now...this Mass.

Scripture...Service...Sacraments (Sacrament of Reconciliation)...Study...
can each be an oasis for us.

Today we begin another oasis...our parish mission.

It is an opportunity to "Ignite the Light of Christ Within Us."

And igniting the light of Christ within us will also better equip us
to ignite the light of Christ in others.

"Receive not the grace of God in vain" Paul tells us in a letter to the Corinthians.

Capture...capture the opportunities of grace.

Spend time in an oasis...

regularly spend time capturing
the opportunities we have to spend time in an oasis.

And then we can compete well...finish the race...keep the faith.