

September 27 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/092720.cfm>

Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

Instead of questioning God and God's ways, we need to respond in humble obedience.

- How do we exhibit humble obedience?
  - How hard is that for you?
  - How can we turn a no into a yes?
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October 4 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100420.cfm>

Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

*"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done and it wonderful in our eyes."* God sent his Son in a way that was unexpected. Yet He is the cornerstone and wonderful in our eyes.

- How is Jesus the cornerstone of your life?
  - What makes you anxious today?
  - How do we place limits on God's love?
  - Where do you find wonder in the work of God?
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October 11 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101120.cfm>

Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

The Gospel today contains a parable about a king and a banquet which gives us a powerful image of the Kingdom of God. The invited guests refused to come. So, "The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests."

- What is your image of God?
  - What causes people to reject God?
  - How has God been there for you in your life?
  - How would you like being a guest at this banquet where good and bad alike are gathered?
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October 18 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101820.cfm>

Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

Jesus' opponents, the Pharisees the religious elite who believe they followed the Hebrew law more faithfully than anyone else, have a trick question for Jesus. They think they have him trapped in a way that will get him in trouble with either the Jewish leaders or the Roman occupiers depending on his answer. Jesus' answer: "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's."

- A coin, which bears the image of Caesar, belongs to Caesar. How does one give back to Caesar what is his?
  - We are created in God's image so we belong to God. How do we give back to God?
  - Where and how do you experience the feeling of belonging to God?
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October 25 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102520.cfm>

Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

Today's first reading from Exodus (EX 22:20-26) calls us to not harm or ignore the alien (foreigner, immigrant), or the widow or the orphan. These three groups represent those with no status and no one to advocate for them.

- Who are the foreigners, widows and orphans in our midst today?
- Once we identify them how do we advocate for them?

The Gospel tells us the two great commandments: love God, love your neighbor. This is not an either or question, it is a both / and matter.

- What vision must God have for all humans if these are the greatest commandments?
- How can we better live these commandments in our home, our parish, and our region?
- What obstacles keep us from loving God and neighbor?

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November 1 All Saints <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/110120.cfm>

Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

The first reading from Revelation (Rev 7:2-4,9-14) has a vision of heaven in which people in white robes lay prostrate before the throne worshipping God. 'They are the ones who survived the time of great distress;... their robes are washed and made white in the blood of the lamb.'

- What images come to your mind when you reflect on this passage?
- This is indeed a time of great distress. How will you survive it? How will you wash your robes in the blood of the lamb?

The Gospel is Matthew's description of the Beatitudes, that is the paradigm for Christian living.

- Which beatitude(s) are already a part of your life?
- Which one(s) need work?

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November 8 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/110820.cfm>

Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

The first reading from Wisdom (Wis 6:12-16) tells us wisdom (that is thinking like God thinks, not like human's think) is accessible to all who seek it?

- How much do you desire to be able to think like God thinks?
- What are some ways you might find out more about God's ways?

The Gospel has a parable about 10 virgins (think of the word virgin as a euphemism for people who are not yet developed in wisdom).

- What does this Gospel teach us about our own lives?
- Have you thought much about heaven and the path to getting there?
- What do you need to do to get ready for the coming of Christ?

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November 15 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/111520.cfm>

Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

Today in the Gospel, Matthew gives us the parable of the talents. Some words to help us understand talents may be: handiwork, or special gifts and talents.

- What special experiences and talents has God given you? Reflect on them in some detail Be specific.
- How have you developed them?
- What are some life experiences that have made you a better person?
- How can you use those talents to build up the kingdom of God?

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November 22, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/112220.cfm>

### Renewing the Diocese Reflection Questions

This is the end of Ordinary Time and the A cycle of readings based on Matthew. The Gospel today is a description of the final judgment before the Good Shepherd. Perhaps we can use it as kind of a check list, if you will, as to how this Liturgical Year went for you. It started last year in Advent. Christmas, Epiphany, some Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary time again until today.

- In the Gospel today, what is the conversation like between God and the sheep, i.e., the ones who get into heaven? What life choices did they make?
- What about the goats? What did they do wrong?
- Every day we need to examine our conscience. How did we do today? This week? This year?
- How can we use the Advent season which arrives next week to get back on the “sheep” side of the Kingdom of Heaven?