

**TWENTY - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME    SEPT. 12, 021**

*Recently I had lunch with a couple I've known for few years. They told me about their little grandson who at the age of four and five was absolutely fascinated with trains. He had books, DVDs, pictures, etc. all on trains of every description. When he turned ten his grandmother gave him a new book on trains for his birthday. He said, "Thanks Grandma, but I am no longer into trains. Now I'm into the Universe!"*

*The great genius, Jimmy, with awe and wonder gazed upon the Universe and made the profound statement, "The only thing that really matters is what God thinks."*

***That is a profound statement** because in today's Gospel Jesus lets Peter know that all our problems, all our misunderstandings stem from the fact that **"We do not think as God does, but as Human beings do."** So how does God think? What is God thinking at this moment?*

***First of all**, He is not distant. As St. Augustine says, "O Beauty ever ancient, ever new. I sought you without and all along you were within."*

*So, at any given moment you and I can discover what God is thinking by going within our hearts and like Isaiah give Him "An Open Ear!" And when we listen, the first thing we hear is what Isaiah heard, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine...you are precious in my eyes and glorious, and because I love you." Isaiah 43/1 & 5.*

***Childlike trust** in God's love for us is so basic, so important, because that is the source of our joy, it is the power that moves us, and enables us to:*

- *Endure any suffering and to carry any cross.*
- *Fulfill today's Gospel of "Denying ourselves, picking up our crosses, and following Christ."*
- *It was the conviction of God's love for Mother Teresa to pick up the rejects of society from the gutters of Calcutta as well as persevere in her dedicated service for years.*
- *It is faith in God's love for us that makes our Faith come alive in producing good works and not just being meaningless words, as St. James warns about in today's second reading.*