November 11, 2019

Scripture

**Luke 17:1-6**

Jesus said to his disciples,
"Things that cause sin will inevitably occur,
but woe to the one through whom they occur.
It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck
and he be thrown into the sea
than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.
Be on your guard!
If your brother sins, rebuke him;
and if he repents, forgive him.
And if he wrongs you seven times in one day
and returns to you seven times saying, 'I am sorry,'
you should forgive him."
And the Apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."
The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,
you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

Our Scripture Reflection

The first two verses of today’s Gospel text should scare into sobriety those members of the hierarchy/clergy who do not have the best interest of the Lord’s “little ones” (meaning: children, those who are new to the faith, those who are weak in their faith) at heart. While they may seem to go unscathed in this life, they neither can nor will escape the wrath of Our Lord in the life to come. Ecclesiastical readers beware!

Food for your Journey
Most people are familiar with the word "piety," but have little idea where it comes from. They think it has to do with explicit religiosity, with visibly practicing one’s religious faith. Piety -- or pietas, in the Latin -- actually means something rather different. It is an ancient Roman virtue that can be defined simply as "duty." A person who demonstrates pietas erga parentes -- literally "piety towards one’s parents" -- is being obedient and dutiful. Cicero defined pietas as the virtue "which admonishes us to do our duty to our country or our parents or other blood relations."

Pietas is also the name of a minor Roman goddess who is the goddess of duty.

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**A Prayer from the Heart**

Gracious Father, I am my “brother’s and sister’s” keeper. You have blessed me and given me the responsibility of being a blessing to others, especially the little ones, the weak and those in need of loving direction. Keep me humble and faithful to the task for in serving them, I serve You. Amen