

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in OT (C) – June 26, 2022

In the coming weeks, our gospel readings will reveal how Jesus entrusted to His disciples a share in His ministry and how they were amazed at what they were able to accomplish when they acted in His name: healing the sick and expelling demons, for example.

The gospel will teach us the meaning of compassion in the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the virtue of hospitality in the welcome Jesus received in the home of Martha and Mary.

Jesus will teach His disciples – and us – how to pray in the words we now call the Lord's Prayer.

But before any of this teaching is revealed, the gospel tells us today that Jesus began a journey – a journey to Jerusalem – and He resolutely determined to make this journey.

This journey to Jerusalem, we know, and Jesus knew, was ultimately a journey to the Cross.

The gospel tells us today, Jesus began this journey to the Cross neither joyfully nor reluctantly, but very specifically, He made this journey resolutely.

Jesus embarked on His journey to the Cross humbly, willingly, soberly accepting God's plan / God's will for His life.

Today, I pray that we as Catholics may receive Friday's Supreme Court ruling on abortion humbly and soberly as we continue to make every effort to promote a greater respect for the dignity and value of all human life.

For 50 years, we as a Church have been especially resolute in preaching, teaching and giving witness to our belief that human life is sacred from the moment of conception until our natural death.

We have not only worked to secure legal protection for the life of the unborn, but we have also made every effort to care for and support women in crisis pregnancies both before and after the birth of their children.

And we have always supported in physical, spiritual and emotional ways women and men who have suffered because of an abortion in their past.

We receive Friday's Supreme Court's decision with humility and hope – recognizing the Cross that division and hostility continue to inflict on our country, and even on our own families and friendships.

We remain resolute in our commitment to care for women in crisis pregnancies and families who struggle to provide food, shelter and adequate health care for their children.

And we will continue to proclaim resolutely the Good News that all life is sacred because every person at every stage of life bears the image and likeness of God our Creator.

With humility and hope, may all of us who love the gift of life make every effort in the days ahead to promote healing and peace in our families, in our community and our country with malice towards none, and with charity for all.