

Palisades Presbyterian Church
Sunday Readings

July 22, 2007

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lay Reader: Nina VonEckardt

Leads Call to Worship

Offers the following prayers

(Feel free to write your own. If you have an extended reading for the "Prayer for Illumination" please speak with Ray beforehand.)

Prayer for Illumination

Almighty God, in you are hidden all treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonder in these words and message they carry for our lives. **Amen.**

Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes

Creator God, we know that you have made everything in this world. You have been generous to us and we invite all gathered here to be generous in return. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

We dedicate this offering, Lord, for the work of the church, and we ask you to use all that we have and all that we are in your service. Amen.

If you have any questions or need any help, please call Ray at 914 682 3659 or email: ppc10964@verizon.net

First Reading: Trust in the Slow Work of God

Teilhard de Chardin - from a letter to his cousin Marguerite Teilhard, July 4, 1915 in The Making of a Mind: Letters from a Soldier-Priest 1914-1919, p. 57

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are, quite naturally, impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages; we are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet, it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stage of instability...and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you, your ideas mature gradually -- let them grow. Let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete...

[Above all, trust in the slow work of God.]

Second Reading:

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me."
⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."