

Lectio Divina

October 22nd 2023 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 22:15 - 21

²²⁻¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’ ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ ²¹They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’

<p>➤ Read and re-read – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ Meditate - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ Pray - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ Action – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</p>
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This week’s gospel speaks about giving to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. The message is that we are all called to be good citizens of the countries and societies where we live, while at the same time giving priority to our relationship with God. That relationship is made possible by our gift of faith. When have you been faced with a conflict of loyalties? What helps you to get your priorities right?

Prayer:

Thank you Lord for our gift of faith which helps us to be good citizens giving priority to our relationship with God.

Forgive us Lord for the times when we failed to pass on the message of the love of Jesus for each one of us especially to those who were most in need.

Help us Lord always to respect life and bring human dignity and encouragement to all.

