

AUGUST 21, 2019
Memorial of St. Pius X, Pope
Mt. 20: 1-16a

TO LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS

On June 2, 1835, Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto saw the light of earth at Riese, Province of Treviso, in Venice; on August 20, 1914, he saw the light of heaven; and on May 29, 1954, he who had become the two hundred fifty-ninth pope was canonized St. Pius X. Two of the most outstanding accomplishments of this saintly Pope were the inauguration of the liturgical renewal and the restoration of frequent communion from childhood. He also waged an unwavering war against the heresy and evils of Modernism, gave great impetus to biblical studies, and brought about the codification of Canon Law. His overriding concern was to renew all things in Christ. Above all, his holiness shone forth conspicuously. From St. Pius X we learn again that "the folly of the Cross", simplicity of life, and humility of heart are still the highest wisdom and the indispensable conditions of a perfect Christian life, for they are the very source of all apostolic fruitfulness. His last will and testament bears the striking sentence: "I was born poor, I have lived in poverty, and I wish to die poor." Catholic Online: Saints and Angels

The work and life of St. Pius X presented what God wants us to do today: generosity. In our gospel for today, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, we can see the compassion and generosity of God. We know, that there is a countless unemployed people and the helplessness to earn enough money to live and support one's family. During the time of Jesus, workers had to wait each day in the marketplace for someone to hire them for a day's job. It means no work, no money, no food. Here in Calgary, I saw these kinds of people at 1st Street SW in downtown. They waited for people to hire them so that they can have money to buy foods for themselves and for their families.

Jesus in the parable indicates that God is generous and compassionate. Even if the laborers who worked all day and received payment as those who worked late in the afternoon, the master hired all of them so they wouldn't go home payless and hungry. This is our God: fair and kind. The parable teaches us that God opens the door of his kingdom to all who enter, even if they labored a lifetime or those who come at the last hour. While the return or prize or reward is the same for all of us, still the motives make all the difference. Some people work for reward and what they will get back, but others work out of love and joy so that they can serve others, too. The Lord is reminding us that we need to serve Him not for any material gain but for eternal reward. Even if we received all kinds of material wealth, they are only bonus for us, what we need is the eternal life in heaven in the company of saints – the reward of life with God.

So, my brothers and sisters, Our Lord Jesus Christ invites and asks each one of us to serve God and his kingdom with joy, happiness and zeal, and to serve our neighbor with a generous spirit as well. Let us make the prayer of Pope Francis our prayer, too; he said: "Lord, help us to live the virtue of generosity, to love without limits."