

**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE FESTIVAL OF HOLY CROSS**  
**(OCTOBER 22ND 2006)**

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, October 22nd is the Sixth Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross. In the Holy Gospel reading, we read about Jesus talking to a Pharisee, a religious leader. He was young and had the best the world could offer – wealth and security – and went to Jesus because he lacked one thing. This person wanted the kind of lasting peace and happiness which money could not buy him. Jesus said to him, if you wish to be perfect go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor and follow me and you will have treasure in heaven.

This is the wealth that Jesus speaks of when He compares the kingdom of God to a treasure: The kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field. A man happens to find it, so he covers it up again. He is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field (Matthew 13:44). Jesus uses the same expression in both this parable and in the text of the rich man. Here He says: “he goes and sells everything he has” and to the rich man he says: “go and sell all you have”.

The answer he received from Jesus was not what he was looking for. He said that he kept all the commandments. But one thing kept him from giving himself whole-heartedly to God. Jesus knew the trouble in his heart. Jesus challenged the young man because his heart was possessive. When Jesus challenged him to make God his One True Possession and Treasure, the rich ruler went away from Jesus with sadness.

He walked away frustrated with Jesus’ reply rather than joy because his treasure and his hope for happiness were misplaced. We all know that the Treasure has a special connection to our heart. The Lord himself is the greatest Treasure we can have. Giving up everything to the Lord is not a time for sorrow but for joy.

“Lord, you alone can satisfy the deepest longing in our heart. No other treasure can compare with you. Keep us free from being possessive and give us joy in having You alone as our Treasure”.

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.**

**Bible readings for Sunday, October 22nd 2006.**

**(Sixth Sunday After the Festival of Holy Cross)**

**Before Holy Qurbana:**

<b>Genesis</b>	-	<b>42: 29-36</b>
<b>Psalms</b>	-	<b>84: 1-12</b>
<b>Isaiah</b>	-	<b>43: 16-25</b>

**Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles:	<b>Acts</b>	-	<b>21: 27-40</b>
Epistles of St. Paul:	<b>I Corinthians</b>	-	<b>5: 6-13</b>
Holy Gospel:	<b>St. Luke</b>	-	<b>18: 18-27</b>

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex