



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY September 13 & BEYOND

Being One and Diverse



In Chapter 14, verses 5-12 of his letter to the Romans, Paul insists that Christ's followers should not judge or show contempt for their brothers and sisters in the Lord based on their different devotional

practices or customs, Those things are non-essential and each person is convinced in their mind that by so doing they are serving the Lord.

Paul had a hard mission. Bearing the Good News of Salvation in Christ to the Jews was hard enough, because they would have to break away from centuries-long established dogmas to accept Jesus' New Way. But at least these people had a common background of customs and devotional practices of which Jesus was also a partaker. But the Gentiles were different. And there were different kinds of Gentiles with varied religious backgrounds and customs.

So, Paul had to find a way to reconcile the different practices that were not essential to the acceptance of the Christian faith. And he knew he could not ask people to accept the Jewish practices or any other Gentiles' practices as a pattern for all believers. That would only have caused rejection and conflict. He used common sense. He knew that, after all, even within communities where people follow similar practices, each person is a unique image of our Creator. He insists on this fact when he uses the image of the

different members of the body as essential for its good functioning. He not only acknowledges the uniqueness of each person but celebrates it and considers it the greatest of blessings.

Therefore, it is high time we, the Christians of this century in which the acceptance of the diversity of humankind has become a universal trend, learn not only to tolerate or accept the diversity of human beings that partake of our kinship, but to celebrate it and, as Paul did so many centuries ago, consider it the greatest of blessings.

It is unfortunate that sometimes we Christians are so slow in the realization of what the Apostle Paul celebrated and blessed so many centuries ago: that we are one in our Father and Savior Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, and in the blessed diversity of the unique expression of God's image on earth. It is time to change this. And as Christ's followers, we must be on the front line in this battle, the battle for total inclusion, which is a vital part of the battle for the establishment of God's reign on earth.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7 Psalm 103:8-13 Romans 14:5-12 Matthew 18:21-35

CALENDAR

Note: All Sunday Masses will be held in All Saints' Courtyard at 9am. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY: The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' Courtyard
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noonday Service
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

FRIDAY Fridays at Noon – Discussion and Insights into Sunday's Lectionary
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

SUNDAY The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' Courtyard
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org