

## *28th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**My nephew Bryan studied journalism in college to pursue a dream of becoming a professional sports broadcaster. One of his friends at the same school in the same program was Nate Bukaty. Today Nate has his own sports talk show on radio in Kansas City, and he is an announcer for our professional soccer team SportingKC. My nephew Bryan has the same degree in sports journalism, but today he does something very different: He lives in Europe and sells commercial real estate in Bulgaria. And he's good at it. Sometimes a student works hard to get a degree but then ends up pursuing a different line of work. Nonetheless, a degree is never wasted. Any education is helpful. It trains your brain to think so you can apply your education in a variety of ways and professions.**

**Education is not just about learning facts. It is about obtaining wisdom. Today's first reading is a hymn of praise to wisdom. It considers wisdom better than having a scepter and throne, better than riches and priceless gems, better than gold and silver, better than health and beauty, better than the light of day and a good night's sleep. Wisdom is more important than all of that. After you receive wisdom, you may get those other benefits as well. Jesus basically gives the same message to those who would be his disciples: Give up your treasures and gain the one treasure that matters: Jesus. Become his disciple. Gain wisdom from him. You will gain all you need besides.**

**In today's first reading we also hear how to get wisdom. "I prayed," the writer says. "I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me." Sometimes wisdom comes to us when we don't want it. We learn the hard way, by experience, when things go wrong. Other times we really want wisdom we don't have. We may have to make a difficult decision. We may wonder if we should forgive someone. We try to figure out what words to say that will not make a situation worse than it already is. In the past, we have said the wrong words or made the wrong choice, and we don't want to that to happen again. We all need wisdom.**

**The bible says that wisdom comes from God. In fact, it uses the word "Wisdom" as a title for God: God is wisdom. When we pray for wisdom, we are praying for some of what God used to make the earth and all it contains, establishing boundaries and balances. We'd like a share of that.**

**Here at St. Anthony's we offer different ways for people to grow wise in their faith. We have Wednesday night faith formation sessions for children and adults. We prepare couples for marriage and parents for the baptism of their children. We promote the annual Catholic Charismatic Conference taking place next weekend. We support Holy Cross Grade School and various Catholic high schools, including Christo Rey. I'll offer some sessions this fall to help people better understand the mass. We can learn our faith in many ways, but the best way to obtain wisdom is to ask for it, to pray and plead for the spirit of wisdom.**

**The time you spend at prayer is like time spent at school: It trains us to make good decisions in life. Prayer helps us make room for God and our neighbor. It reinforces the values of goodness and love. We can obtain what we need if we make time for God and ask for the gift of wisdom.**

*Sunday, October 11, 2015*