

**ICCH**  
**International Catholic Community of Heidelberg**

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062.21.13.020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

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*August 31, 2014*

*Today's Readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9 Romans 12:1-2 Matthew 16:21-27*

Welcome Father Leonard

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**



In foretelling his sufferings and death, which took place some months later, Christ intended to prepare his disciples and other followers for what he knew would be for them a severe crisis of faith. He also took occasion from it to remind his disciples, and all others who would follow him, of what their attitude to suffering and death should be. He told them, and us too, that we must be ever ready to accept sufferings in this life, and even an untimely death if that should be demanded of us, rather than deny our Christian faith. To prove their loyalty to their faith in Christ thousands of Christians in the early Church, and thousands more during persecutions in later centuries, gladly took him at his word and went joyfully to their martyrdom. It is to be hoped that,

aided by God's grace, we would all be ready to imitate their example, if called on to prove our fidelity to Christ and our Christian faith. But at the moment what Christ expects and asks of us is that we should bear the sufferings and hardships of daily life cheerfully and gladly for his sake.

This daily carrying of our Christian cross can be, and is for many, a prolonged martyrdom. Poverty, ill-health, cruelty and hardheartedness met with in the home and in one's neighbors, are heavy crosses which only a truly Christian shoulder can bear. But, if we were offered health, happiness, peace, wealth and power for the next fifty or seventy years on this earth, in exchange for an eternal heaven after death, what rational one among us would accept that offer?

Christians know that this life is a period of training, which makes us ready hereafter to receive the eternal reward which Christ has won for us. Every trainee knows that one must endure certain hardships and sufferings in order to merit graduation into one's chosen profession or trade. On our Christian graduation day we shall, please God, hear the welcome words : "Well done good and faithful servant; because you have been faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater, come and join in your Master's happiness" (Mt. 25: 21). May God grant that every one of us will hear these words of welcome.

*Source: <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2014-08-31>*

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**NEWS ...**

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**1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of ICCH** – On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, we will commemorate one year of fellowship as a community. This is a special day for us and we want to have a social gathering after mass that day. All former members of the community, both former and current, are most welcome to celebrate with us. If you can volunteer to help with the organization, please contact Zeribe ([zeribe@yaho.com](mailto:zeribe@yaho.com)).

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If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:  
[infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com](mailto:infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com)