

ICCH
International Catholic Community of Heidelberg

St. Michael's Church, Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

Today's readings: Wis 2:12, 17-20 | Jas 3:16-4:3 | Mk 9:30-37

September 20 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the servant of all.”

The Gospel passage of today indicates that the disciples and Jesus were clearly on a collision path. Jesus was teaching them about the necessity of suffering and service and all they could think about was power and prestige. This comes out very strongly when Jesus confronts his disciples about their conversation during their journey. They were highly embarrassed and very reluctant to disclose that at the center of their concern was who among them was the greatest. Jesus once again threw an idea at them which was in total contradiction to everything they had ever been told. The type of authority he projected would be of a new type, never experienced by any one. He told them that true greatness is in being the servant of all. The authority in his house has to be one of giving and of service.

Jesus exemplified his teaching on discipleship by putting a little child in their midst. The point of making reference to the child was to draw their attention to the child's social status. In the culture of the time of Jesus children were considered to be at the lowest rung of the social ladder. This did not mean that they were not valued, loved and cared for. It simply meant that the child starts out at the bottom. Jesus was teaching his disciples who were striving for status and fame that authentic discipleship moves in the opposite direction. Discipleship is about service, about giving up status, about moving down the ladder and not up. This is not what the disciples wanted to hear. Jesus points to them that the adults seek security and in the process can become sly and hard, are often afraid and fear abuses. Children on the other hand live in unruffled trust. A child has novelty and vision. It sees all things afresh. It has the sense of joy and admiration. It loves without reservation. Above all it is humble, helpless and very vulnerable. The child represents all those in our society who are powerless and easily manipulated, who are easily abused, neglected and marginalized. It represents the poor, the sick, the disabled, the elderly and the immigrants. Jesus calls his disciples to discard the old ideas of the messiah deep in their mind and see the presence of Jesus in the eyes of a child with a new vision and with admiration and wonder.

[Source: Fr. E. Lobo S.J. - shortened from <https://msjnov.wordpress.com/>]

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ICCH!

This Sunday, let us give thanks for two years of ICCH – two years of growth in numbers, but more important in communion and active ministry. We'd like to especially thank our priests who are with us this Sunday for Mass and our get-together. Please follow their good example and join your community for this celebration with some “extras”:

Please remain seated after mass for a little **presentation** prepared by the **children** (about 5 minutes)!

Special Social Gathering:

Above all we are hoping for your attendance – bring yourself, your family, bring some time and joy! You are also warmly invited to bring a dish to share, a salad, dessert, fruit or whatever would help boost our gathering. To make the social more colorful, consider bringing something from your place of origin... And, last but not least, every help in setting up and especially cleaning up is very welcome.

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

