

## 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### A. Introduction

- 1894 – George W Coles developed a compound that did three things in one application – for the care and maintenance of bicycles
- lubricated, prevented rust, cleansed
- call the 3-IN-ONE oil ... famous
- as a kid, used it for squeaky doors, to get nut off bolts, chain on our bicycle

### B. God's Word: lubricates, protects, and cleanses

#### 1. God's word lubricates

- E.g., lawn mower – ran out of oil ... blade locked up totally – unable to move it
- Sin locks us up ... be adultery, violence, self-righteousness ... we are locked in the same place for half a life time until the oil of God's grace gets us moving again
- sacrament of reconciliation is like an oil station ...
- oil of conversion = change of attitude and behavior
- St. Francis: joy lubricated his journey ... invited people to conversion / to new life

#### 2. God's word protects

- journey of life is perilous ... many dangers, many temptations
- oil of companionship is given to us: friends, family, community
- Lilly Ann Ziese: baptized ... besides family, also community ... protect her
- Genesis: "not good for us to be alone"
- Novel: McCullers's *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* – great mistake/travel alone
- we hold hands

#### 3. God's word cleanses

- Hebrews: Jesus came ... embraced our whole life: even suffering/death
- oil of salvation: re-establish unity ... remove the walls that separate us from one another and from God
- his Baptism at the Jordan ... cleansing
- his dying on the Cross ... cleansing ... self-giving
- Shakespeare's "King Lear" ... expose yourself to what the wretches feel

E. Banner in a preacher's den: "If after seven minutes you haven't struck oil, stop boring." My seven minutes are up ... the well is dry ... we go to the altar and in offering our humble bread and wine Jesus gives us a share in his life: his grace that lubricates, protects, and cleanses – and if George W. Cole does not mind we might even label it: 3-IN-One oil.