FATHER SCOTT WALLISCH'S

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Flock,

Happy 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Welcome to the first weekend of the ninth month of the 26th year of the third millennium after the birth of Christ.

Also, Happy Labor Day Weekend. Because it is a three-day weekend celebrating labor, I thought I would talk a little bit about work. Now, I know what you are thinking, *Fr. Scott, what do you know about work?* You are a priest. Well, it is true that, for the last sixteen years, I have only had to work one day a week: Sunday. Having nearly two decades of six-day weekends hardly makes me an expert on work, but I did spend four years in the working world, so I at least have some memories of what five days of labor each week are like.

So, non-expert on work, what do you want to say about labor? Labor is important for a disciple of Jesus. It is part of our holiness.

St. Josemaría Escrivá started the movement *Opus Dei* (translated as "work of God"). A primary focus of the movement was to help lay people see that they were called to holiness. A large part of their path to holiness was sanctifying their work, no matter what they do.

St. Josemaría Escrivá showed that we can sometimes think that work is something separate from our life as disciples. He showed instead that, in every moment of our day, we can grow in holiness. This includes our many hours of daily work. We can grow in holiness and virtue when we use the skills God has given us to serve our coworkers, customers, patients, and students; are punctual and get to work on time; are diligent and spend our work time focused and productive; are affable and pleasant at work; lovingly take good care of our children and homes as stay-at-home parents; and do our best to offer our work to the Lord.

Remember, Jesus was publicly preaching only as a small part of His life. He spent two-thirds of His life working and showing us the value of labor. He was not just holy when He healed and taught. He was holy when He interacted with customers, made a fair exchange of His talent, and produced for society.

It is true: I am no expert on working. Jesus was, though. He showed us the value of labor. On this Labor Day Weekend, let us give thanks that God has taken what the world may see as drudgery and turned it into our path to holiness.

May God bless our work this week.

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Scott Wallisch