

February 19, 2012

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday



SHUTTERSTOCK



Though I haven't checked statistics, I'm guessing that the most commonly used word in the English language is *no*. I base this assumption not on adult conversations, but

on the numerous times the word *no* is said—or shouted—by my twin 2-year-old nephews. I adore them, but it's frustrating when I ask for a hug, for a song, or to share toys, and the only response is a definitive “*No!*” It's amazing how quickly little ones master that word.

Even we supposedly more-mature grownups have quite a mastery of the word *no*. We may not say it as directly, but we're very familiar with the art of refusal. “Gosh, I just really don't have time to attend that faith-formation evening at church.” “Honestly,

I can't see myself ever forgiving her.” “I don't have the energy to listen to his complaints about work anymore.” The words are nicer, but the translation really is the same: No. No. No.

Today Saint Paul tells us that Jesus is God's *yes* to the world: Yes, God loves us so much that he wants to be one of us. Yes, God shows us how to live by giving us Jesus to follow. Yes, God triumphs over death by raising Jesus to new life. Jesus is filled with yeses. He is open to us, giving to us, living with us.

What about us? What about the times we could say *yes* to God or to another person, but we say no because it's easier or takes less time or requires less of us? Might we remember how often God says yes to us?

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Today's Readings

Is 43:18–19, 21–22, 24b–25

2 Cor 1:18–22

Mk 2:1–12

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