

October 19, 2008

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Isaiah 45: 1, 4 – 6

1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 5b

Matthew 22: 15 – 21

The Gospel of Matthew 22: 15 -21 has one of Jesus' most memorable lines: "Repay to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what belongs to God." This remark from Jesus comes at the end of Matthew and in a few days Jesus would be dead.

The question posed to Jesus concerned the respect and obligation to pay a tax to Caesar. So Jesus asks for a coin, as he has none. Jesus emptied himself and was poor and thereby teaches us not to over-value silver or gold. Thus rendering or repaying to Caesar what are rightfully his, shows that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. However, since its beginning 2000 years ago, the Catholic Church has been a steadfast advocate for the poor and worked as a friend to civil government. Toward this end, it has always sought to help the faithful repay God with our consciences and our heart... as that is all that God wants. It is a small price to pay for salvation and all are invited.

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