

OCTOBER 18, 2020 – 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

People asked Jesus, “Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” Who asked this question? They were the Pharisees and the Herodians. It was irony that these two groups got together to ask Jesus about this question. They had different view about the census tax. For Pharisees, it was against God to pay tax to Roman Emperor. And for Herodians, there was no problem to pay tax to Roman Emperor, because Herod had been granted the title of ‘King of Judea’ by the Roman Emperor and Senate.

Jesus gave them answer, “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. The Pharisees and the Herodians were maybe disappointed by this answer. However, Jesus didn’t give up either of them. He respected both sides. It was the will of God. “I should not lose anything of what he gave me.” (John 6: 39) Both the Pharisees and the Herodians are the children of God. Jesus didn’t lose either of them.

Jesus never gave up anyone among his opponents, because they were the children of God. We may have many ones who are against us. We are tempted to give up these ones. It’s shouldn’t be the will of God. God’s will is that we should not lose anyone whom he sent to us.

Fr. James