



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC CHURCH

A COMMUNITY CALLED TO BE A WITNESS TO THE GLORIOUS VICTORY OF THE CROSS

WELCOME

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Very Rev. Fr. Emery Longanga, PhD, VF
Pastor

Rev. Fr. Pius Mathew
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler
Permanent Deacon

WELCOME MESSAGE

We the welcoming family of Holy Cross are delighted to have you join our parish family. Whether you are new to the area, seeking a new parish home, or returning to the practice of your Catholic faith, we hope you come and spend some time with us at Mass and in prayer and adoration. We seek to offer as many opportunities as possible for parishioners to come together as a family of faith. We pray that you may find warmth and spiritual growth here at Holy Cross!



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight." - Lk 10:30b-31, 33

"Un hombre que bajaba por el camino de Jerusalén a Jericó, cayó en manos de unos ladrones, los cuales lo robaron, lo hirieron y lo dejaron medio muerto. Sucedió que por el mismo camino bajaba un sacerdote, el cual lo vio y pasó de largo. Pero un samaritano que iba de viaje, al verlo, se compadeció de él." - Lc 10, 30-31. 33

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SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2022 | 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

DEAR FRIENDS,

In today's gospel a scholar of the law – meaning someone who knows and teaches God's law to his people – comes to ask Jesus what he must do to inherit the kingdom of heaven. This question takes us back to the first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy. There, we are told what God said to his people when he enjoined on them the command: "it is already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out..." and you will have eternal life.

In the parable of the Samaritan, Jesus' answer to the corollary question about "Who is my neighbor?" is a reminder that he makes to the scholar of the law about what he always knows. To carry out the command God has enjoined on them but which they restricted to immediate kinship. The scholar of the law who congratulates Jesus because he quoted and reminded him of the Law, is actually the one to remember that he has not been carrying out the command. What he has to do to inherit the kingdom is just carry out the command. God is not asking too much.

You and I have already been given the law; for Jesus has said that we are already pruned to bear fruit as branches. Moreover, he insisted that the Law and the prophets are summarized in the following commandments: love of God and of neighbor. This is all we need to carry out to inherit the kingdom of heaven. This commandment is already in our hearts and in our mouths. Love is the most used word in our lives. Unfortunately, we take excuses to carry out the commandment. Because, of that love Jesus says that there is no greater than that of laying one's life for the sake of others. Like the ministers in today's gospel, there are so many things which divert us from carrying out the commandments.

The most acerbic criticism Jesus is making here is the disconnection between faith and practice. Both the priest and the Levite are ministers of the temple. But, like the scholar of the law, the mercy part of that ministry is missing and lacking. Their understanding of their ministry and faith is limited to a formal fulfillment of their religious duty and celebration. Jesus reminds us that our participation in sacred liturgy, in the eucharist, should always give us an impulse to perform works of mercy. This is because in the Eucharist, we ourselves experience God's incommensurable mercy that transforms us to channels of that mercy. We are fed in the eucharist so that we may in return feed those laying on the roads of the world. We are shown mercy so that we may in return show mercy to others. It is only in so far as we strive to put into practice and to carry out the command the Lord has enjoined on us that our participation in the Feast of our salvation will bear fruit and be meaningful.

Thus, today you and I are challenged to reconcile the two dimensions of our faith, namely the vertical dimension, which we enter into in the celebration of the sacraments and prayers, and the horizontal dimension where we give proof of our love of God through our love for others, those called in today's gospel "our neighbor;" the one whose name and face remind us only the face and the name of Christ. The conclusion of our celebration is always the beginning of our ministry in the world as disciples. From the mountain of the temple and sanctuary, we go down the hill to announce the gospel and to change lives, we embark on the way to Jericho to encounter the wounded and the outcast, the hungry and clothe less, the sick and the lonely. It is up to you and me to lift them up and to bandage their wounds.

This is the way we are expected to carry out the command the Lord has enjoined on us, as we continue to pray for one another and for our parish family.

QUERIDOS AMIGOS,

En el evangelio de hoy, un estudioso de la ley, es decir, alguien que conoce y enseña la ley de Dios a su pueblo, viene a preguntarle a Jesús qué debe hacer para heredar el reino de los cielos. Esta pregunta nos lleva de vuelta a la primera lectura del Libro de Deuteronomio. Allí se nos dice lo que Dios dijo a su pueblo cuando les encomendó el mandato: "ya está en vuestra boca y en vuestro corazón; sólo tenéis que llevarlo a cabo..." y tendréis vida eterna.

En la parábola del samaritano, la respuesta de Jesús a la pregunta corolaria sobre "¿Quién es mi prójimo?" es un recordatorio que le hace al estudioso del derecho sobre lo que siempre sabe. Para llevar a cabo el mandato que Dios les ha encomendado pero que restringieron al parentesco inmediato. El estudioso de la Ley, que felicita a Jesús porque le citó y le recordó la Ley, es en realidad el que recuerda que no ha estado cumpliendo el mandato. Lo que tiene que hacer para heredar el reino es simplemente cumplir la orden. Dios no está pidiendo demasiado.

A ti ya mí ya se nos ha dado la ley; porque Jesús ha dicho que ya estamos podados para dar fruto como las ramas. Además, insistió en que la Ley y los profetas se resumen en los siguientes mandamientos: amor a Dios y al prójimo. Esto es todo lo que necesitamos llevar a cabo para heredar el reino de los cielos. Este mandamiento ya está en nuestro corazón y en nuestra boca. El amor es la palabra más usada en nuestras vidas. Desafortunadamente, tomamos excusas para cumplir el mandamiento. Porque de ese amor Jesús dice que no hay mayor que el de dar la propia vida por el bien de los demás. Al igual que los ministros del evangelio de hoy, hay tantas cosas que nos desvían de cumplir los mandamientos.

La crítica más mordaz que hace Jesús aquí es la desconexión entre la fe y la práctica. Tanto el sacerdote como el levita son ministros del templo. Pero, como el erudito de la ley, falta la parte de misericordia de ese ministerio. Su comprensión de su ministerio y fe se limita al cumplimiento formal de su deber y celebración religiosa. Jesús nos recuerda que nuestra participación en la sagrada liturgia, en la eucaristía, debe darnos siempre un impulso para realizar obras de misericordia. Esto es porque en la Eucaristía, nosotros mismos experimentamos la incommensurable misericordia de Dios que nos transforma en canales de esa misericordia. Somos alimentados en la eucaristía para que, a cambio, podamos alimentar a los que se encuentran en los caminos del mundo. Se nos muestra misericordia para que, a cambio, podamos mostrar misericordia a los demás. Sólo en la medida en que nos esforcemos por poner en práctica y cumplir el mandato que el Señor nos ha encomendado, nuestra participación en la fiesta de nuestra salvación fructificará y tendrá sentido.

Así, hoy tú y yo estamos llamados a reconciliar las dos dimensiones de nuestra fe, a saber, la dimensión vertical, en la que entramos en la celebración de los sacramentos y las oraciones, y la dimensión horizontal, en la que damos prueba de nuestro amor a Dios a través de nuestra amor por los demás, los llamados en el evangelio de hoy "nuestro prójimo"; aquel cuyo nombre y rostro nos recuerdan sólo el rostro y el nombre de Cristo. La conclusión de nuestra celebración es siempre el comienzo de nuestro ministerio en el mundo como discípulos. Desde la montaña del templo y santuario, bajamos la colina para anunciar el evangelio y cambiar vidas, emprendemos el camino a Jericó para encontrarnos con los heridos y los marginados, los hambrientos y desvestidos, los enfermos y los solitarios. Depende de ti y de mí levantarlos y vendar sus heridas.

Esta es la forma en que se espera que llevemos a cabo el mandato que el Señor nos ha encomendado, mientras continuamos orando unos por otros y por nuestra familia parroquial.

READINGS

FIRST READING

DT 30:10-14

Moses said to the people: "If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God, and keep his commandments and statutes that are written in this book of the law, when you return to the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul. "For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you. It is not up in the sky, that you should say, 'Who will go up in the sky to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out."

SECOND READING

COL1:15-20

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

GOSPEL READING

LK 10:25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, TUE, THURS & FRI

8:00 am & 12:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

8:00 am & 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm *(Spanish)*

SATURDAY

8:00 am & 4:00 pm

SUNDAY

8:00 & 10:00 am, 12:30 pm *(Spanish)*

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday 8:30 - 11:30 am

First Friday 8:30 - 11:30 am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

First Friday 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm

Sunday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT, JUL 9

8:00 am
4:00 pm

IS 6:1-8/MT 10:24-33

Audrey Piekenbrock
Fr. Charles Leke

SUN, JUL 10

8:00 am
10:00 am †
12:30 pm

DT 30:10-14/COL 1:15-20/LK 10:25-37

Holy Cross Parishioners
Maria de Oro
Bill & Lawanda Lugo

MON, JUL 11

8:00 am †
12:00 pm †

IS 1:10-17/MT 10:34-11:1

Joe Charron
Alicia Asang

TUES, JUL 12

8:00 am
12:00 pm †

IS 7:1-9/MT 11:20-24

Colravy Family
Alicia Asang

WED, JUL 13

8:00 am
12:00 pm †
7:00 pm †

IS 10:5-7, 13B-16/MT 11:25-27

Vocations
Jackie Feenny
Felicitas Rodriguez de Espino

THURS, JUL 14

8:00 am †
12:00 pm †

IS 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/MT 11:28-30

Edward F. Hughes
Jonathan Toledo

FRI, JUL 15

8:00 am
12:00 pm †

IS 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/MT 12:1-8

Theresa Charron
John Hague

SAT, JUL 16

8:00 am
4:00 pm †

MI 2:1-5/MT 12:14-21

Richardo & Emma Esparza
Anne & John Joseph Hill

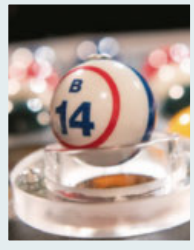
SUN, JUL 17

8:00 am
10:00 am
12:30 pm

GN 18:1-10A/COL 1:24-28/LK 10:38-42

Holy Cross Parishioners
Joseph V. Defino
Jesus Espino

PARISH NEWS



BINGO

Please join us for Monday evening BINGO! Doors open at 4pm. First games start at 5:45pm. In the parish center. Bring a friend or two! \$12 to start. Three jackpots. Hotdogs, snacks, pastries, and drinks for sale. A big thank you to all of our generous volunteers!

BROWN SCAPULAR ENROLLMENT

The Holy Cross third order Carmelites will be hosting a brown scapular enrollment on Saturday, July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, after the 8am Mass. Refreshments will be served in the small hall. All are invited!



LOAVES & FISHES DONATIONS

Our Loaves & Fishes ministry is in need of your help! All donations go directly to feeding the hungry at Pinellas Hope. Our ministry cooks, delivers, and serves food to the needy. Please make checks to Holy Cross with "Loaves & Fishes" in the memo line. Thank you so much!

LECTORS NEEDED

We are in need of additional Lectors! Our ministry head is Joan Terrell. If you are interested, please email her at flaterrellstoo@gmail.com.



NOW HIRING

We are currently looking for a part time Director of Faith Formation! If you or anyone you know might be interested, please see the job description on the diocesan website, or call the parish office. Resumes can be emailed to mwilliams@holycrossrcc.com.

PRAYER BOARD FOR BP PARKES

As you already know, Bishop Parkes has recently undergone a major surgery. Please visit the narthex and fill out a prayer commitment card, or write your own, and pin it to the prayer board. After a few weeks we will send him the cards as a spiritual bouquet.

SAINT QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"For at all times we must so serve Him with the good things He has given us, that He may not, as an angry Father, disinherit His children, nor as a dread Lord, provoked by our evil deeds, deliver us to everlasting punishment as wicked servants who refuse to follow Him to glory." *Saint Benedict*



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Jeremiah, Jared, Phyllis, Natalie, Virginia, Jenn, Joe, Rick, Bud, Donna, Susan, Denise, George, Carmelita, Margaret H., Gianna, Tina, Laura, John, Gail, Karon, Beth Anne, Joe, Evelyn, Gerry, Ben, Mr. & Mrs. Verstappen, Victor, Karen, Rose Marie, John, Maureen, Colin, Paul, John, Joseph, Peggy, Kami, Katie, Anne-Marie, Simo, Josephine, Terry, Bill, Maria, Holly, Doris, Zima, Craig, Sharon, Mike, Robert, Phyllis, Jodi, Carly, Ann, Sharon, Beverly, Emily, Lynn, Mary Lou, Catherine, Roger, Maria, Alfredo, Eleanor, Dayana, Janet, Marilyn, Mary Ann, Bobby, Charlie, Christina, Peggy H., Mark, Renee, Glenn, Mary, Lynn, Sandra, Sally, Nick, Frank, Ed M., Paulette, Frank, Bozana, Mary Ellen, Sharon, Patty, Carlos, Maria Julia, Paula, Pam, Catherine, Amanda, Pat, Dennis, Lauren, Grace, Heidi, Scott, Lisa, Dawn Marie, Declan, Bodhi, Zora, Marie, Katherine, Miguel, Nick, Sharon, Frankie, Kathy, Lisa, Pam, Frank, Sara, Nick, Lynn, Sarah Kristen, Joseph & Theresa, Pierotti Family, Sarah, Maggie, Dyllan, Elba, Artie & Halai, Annie, Jeanie, Anne, Lynn, Chuck, Carl, Bella, Bill, Montana, Eli, Susan, Karen, Fran, Diane & Troy & Family, Lori, Patricia & Anthony, Paul, Kathy, Maryann, Mario, Anthony, Christina, Joseph & Lucy, Chuck, Robert, Missa, David, Chuck, Sue Ann, Tina, Angie, Don, Justine, Maria, the Agars, Eleanor, Fr. Tom, Arlene, Brooke, Vincent, Larry, Daniel, Kristen, Susan, Donna, Evelyn, Carmelita, Meg, Allen, Candy, Geegee, Marc, Betsy, Chrissie, Lucille, Kayla, Austin, Tracy, Jan, Lainey, Carol, Jeff, Gary, June, Janice, Bill, Kathleen, Joseph, Sherrie, Norma, Laura Lee, Efrain, Lawrence, William, Francisco, Josephina, Juana, Eusebio, Francisco, Virginia, Dolores, Louisa, Jaime, Zaida, Anne Marie, Jenny, Miriam, Tommy, Camille, Monique, Marcellus, Jessica, Jay, Norton, Anne, Marietta, Taso, Lleya, Robert, Margaret N., Tina V., Frank, John, Linda, Idania, Stacey, Louis, Steve

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL 2024

1 Q. What is the sacrament of the Eucharist?

A. The Eucharist is a sacrament in which, by the marvelous conversion of the whole substance of bread into the Body of Jesus Christ, and that of wine into His precious Blood, is contained truly, really, and substantially, the Body, the Blood, the Soul and Divinity of the same Lord Jesus Christ, under the appearance of bread and wine as our spiritual food.

2 Q. In the Eucharist is there the same Jesus Christ who is in heaven, and who was born on earth of the Blessed Virgin?

A. Yes, in the Eucharist there is truly the same Jesus Christ who is in heaven, and who was born on earth of the Blessed Virgin.

3 Q. Why do you believe that in the Eucharist Jesus Christ is really present?

A. I believe that in the Eucharist Jesus Christ is truly present, because He Himself has said it, and holy Church teaches it.

4 Q. What is the matter of the sacrament of the Eucharist?

A. The matter of the sacrament of the Eucharist is that which was used by Jesus Christ Himself, that is, wheaten bread and wine of the vine.

5 Q. What is the form of the sacrament of the Eucharist?

A. The form of the sacrament of the Eucharist consists of the words used by Jesus Christ Himself: "This is My Body: This is My Blood."

6 Q. What is the host before consecration?

A. The host before consecration is bread.

7 Q. After consecration what is the host?

A. After consecration the host is the true Body of our Lord Jesus Christ under the species of bread.



SCAPULAR ENROLLMENT

Please join us after the 8am Mass on Saturday! For more information, please contact the parish office. Refreshments will be served!

In the year 1251, in the town of Aylesford in England, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite. She handed him a brown woolen scapular and said, "This shall be a privilege for you and all Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall not suffer eternal fire." In time, the Church extended this magnificent privilege to all the laity who are willing to be invested in the Brown Scapular of the Carmelites and who perpetually wear it. True devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary consists in three things: veneration, confidence, and love. By simply wearing the Scapular, we can tell her every moment of the day that we venerate her, love her and trust in her protection.



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of June 25—26, 2022

Envelopes: (out of 732 families)

Online Giving: \$ 406.00 (from 19 donors)

Weekly Total: \$ 9,242.98

Annual Budget: \$ 291,200.00

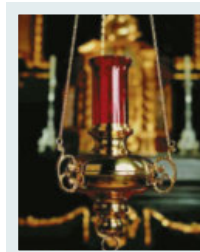


ALTAR FLOWERS

There are no altar flowers intentions this week.

SANCTUARY LAMP

There are no sanctuary lamp intentions this week.



ALTAR BREAD & WINE

There are no altar bread and wine intentions this week.

CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL

FUNDING DIOCESAN MINISTRIES AND SERVICES

2022 CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL (CMA)

Goal: \$54,225.00

Actual Pledged: \$43,219.50

Total Paid: \$38,011.73

Total Unpaid: \$5,727.77

Number of Families: 732

Number of Pledges: 196

Pledging

We currently work with monthly, quarterly and annual pledge cycles. Donors who pledge and do not establish an e-payment account will receive reminders through the mail according to their chosen payment schedule.

One-Time Gift

A one-time gift can be paid at the time of commitment or payment can be scheduled a later date.

Online Giving (E-Giving)

We accept all major credit/debit cards (MasterCard, American Express, Visa and Discover) as well as direct debit payments through our secure online giving system.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

During this liturgical season, we celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's presence is a reminder in our lives that Christ's words are true: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." In other words, while we are sent on mission, we are not sent alone. Rather, we are sent in relationship with God. It's His strength and that leads to any successes. Our role is simply to cooperate. From this perspective, we can see that everything we have—our health, our intelligence, our resources—are all gifts from God. Gifts that He gives to us so that we can in turn use them to participate in His mission. To take part in his work. This perspective can change the way we approach something like our diocese's Catholic Ministry Appeal, an important initiative to support out local Church. When we see that all is a gift from God, our questions shift from, "Do I feel like supporting His Church?" to "How can I support His Church? How is God calling me to take part in His work in this way?" Today, on Pentecost Sunday, ask the Holy Spirit for help in answering these questions, and then prayerfully consider your contribution.

PRAYER FOR THE CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL

More numerous than the stars in the sky are your blessings, O Good and Gracious God. You have called us to spread the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ, through our words and actions. Strengthen our faith and open our hearts to care for all our brothers and sisters, especially those who need us the most. Help us to understand the difference we can make, the love we can share and the lives we can bring to Christ through our Catholic Ministry Appeal. We pray that your grace, O Lord, will lead us to be your loving heart and hands today. Amen.

ORACIÓN POR EL LLAMAMIENTO DEL MINISTERIO CATÓLICO

Más numerosas que las estrellas en el cielo son tus bendiciones, oh Dios bondadoso y compasivo. Nos has llamado para anunciar la buena nueva de tu Hijo, Jesucristo, mediante nuestras palabras y acciones. Fortalece nuestra fe y abre nuestros corazones para que cuidemos de todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas, especialmente aquellos que más nos necesitan. Ayúdanos a comprender la diferencia que podemos hacer, el amor que podemos compartir y las vidas que podemos acercar a Cristo a través de la Campaña para los Ministerios Católicos. Oramos para que tu gracia, oh Señor, nos lleve a ser hoy tu corazón y tus manos amorosas. Amén.



Very Rev. Emery Longanga, PhD
Pastor

Rev. Fr. Pius Mathew
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler
Permanent Deacon

Michele Williams
Parish Manager

Marie Meza
Parish Secretary

(Vacant)
Director of Faith Formation

Shirley Schuler
Housekeeper

Vincent Sclafani
Evangelization & Worship

Angelica Bañuelos-Espino
Weddings & Quinceañeras

Millie Haylock
Baptisms

FAITH FORMATION

JULY 10, 2022
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

We can learn a great deal from Mister Rogers. Remember him? He was the gentle soul who found his way into living rooms worldwide starting as far back as 1968. Mister Rogers' Neighborhood was a beloved program that celebrated and exalted people, especially children. He taught us that we are neighbors and that everyone has a place. Everyone matters. He had a vision, born of his relationship with God that highlighted every human life's innocence, beauty, and uniqueness. To that end, he called us to be responsible for each other, saying nothing different than what Jesus said. Viewers quickly learned that life is not just about me.

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes (Fred Rogers)." It is so easy to look the other way. After all, I'm not the one who needs to leave home out



of fear and try to find somewhere safe. I am not the one who is hungry and without shelter or food. I am not the one who has a child being bullied or ridiculed because of the way they dress or act. I am not the one being threatened with violence or unable to find meaningful work. The distress and agony of our neighbors are our distress and agony. We cannot walk by it with an attitude of indifference, especially if we call ourselves believers. When we no longer care, we have suffocated our souls. This is a great sin.

God's law "is something very near

to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out." We all have a need for love and acceptance. That's why Mister Rogers' television show was so popular. It spoke to something deeper, something sacred about humanity. God didn't give us his law in a book. He wrote it on our hearts. We know what we need to do. It's a matter of choice. Love is sacred. When we love another human being, especially without regard for ourselves, it is a holy moment. These moments are often missed due to our self-serving agendas and rules.

Q & A: LECTIO DIVINA

Question:

What is Lectio Divina, and how is it associated with the Benedictine Monastic tradition, whose founder, St. Benedict, we honor on July 11?

Answer:

Benedict desired his monks to live in community, praying the Liturgy of the Hours together, contemplating sacred texts, and doing manual labor. The monks developed a technique to facilitate a spiritual and devotional

reading of the Bible known as Lectio Divina, the holy reading of a text. This method encourages the reader to hear the biblical text with an open heart and focus on whatever God wants to highlight and then apply it to daily life.

There are variations on Lectio Divina, but essentially, the technique consists of a three-step process of reflection. When the reflection is done with a group, the responses are shared by all the participants. Once the text is selected, it is read meditatively, and the following are

then explored: a word or phrase that attracts you; how and where the content of this reading touches your life today; what you believe that God wants you to do during this coming week (month, year, lifetime). Thanks to Benedict, the Christian community has been gifted with this special way of entering into the biblical text. This week, use the Lectio Divina process on one of the readings for the coming Sunday and make a note of the life connections you are making. How is this reflection on the biblical text drawing you closer to God and others?

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