

PRAISE THE LORD WHO HEALS THE BROKENHEARTED!

*Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

February 8, 2015



REFLECTION ON THE WORD

In today's Gospel Simon says to Jesus, "Everyone is looking for you". Jesus is having great success healing many people and driving out demons. All who encounter him adore him. Nevertheless, Jesus moves on to other villages. Personal idolization is not the purpose for which Jesus has come. His ministry is



not about drawing attention to himself, but about preaching the Good News of salvation. Yet his ministry is

about himself, for he is the Good News. His ministry is about reaching out to others and easing their burdens of life. And so he cures those brought to him who are "ill or possessed by demons". But his ministry is more than this.

Jesus never loses sight of why he came—his ministry is about helping others move beyond their immediate life concerns to reach for the Life he offers them. His healing is the medium for calling the people to a deeper healing, a renewed relationship with God.

WORDS TO REFLECT UPON:

**HIS MINISTRY IS ABOUT HIMSELF FOR HE IS THE
GOOD NEWS**

**Wartime prayers
Wartime prayers
In every language spoken
For every family
scattered and broken
Together, let us pray.
Amen.**

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Suffering, Death And Resurrection of Christ And Our Participation In It.

We all come to Jesus with expectations (after all, prayers of petition are the most common prayers we pray). The challenge is to move beyond our expectations to what Jesus really wants to give us—the Good News of salvation. Jesus' Presence to us today and his healing hand do not assure us that we will never suffer. Human life is full of suffering—physical, emotional, spiritual. The new life and hope Jesus brings by preaching the Good News assures us, however, of having the strength to keep our suffering in perspective. He assures us that suffering belongs to this life but this is not all there is to life. This is the Good News he preaches.

We need to allow Jesus' Presence to transform us so that our every breath is a proclamation of God's Good News, his saving mystery. Most of us won't go out to neighboring towns to preach. But we can smile a simple thank you to the tired cashier in the supermarket. We can do something thoughtful for someone when it is not expected. Like Jesus, we can be a living Gospel, the Good News in action.

**Words to reflect upon: we can be a living
Gospel, the Good News in action.**

"You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them."

St. Theresa of Lisieux, the "Little Flower"



*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers,
intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
1 Timothy 2:1*

Let us pray together today for the chronically ill: Fr.

**please
pray for
the sick**

Vega, Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie Maziarz, Fr. Vega and Peter and Leida Fiorito. Let us pray together this week asking God that we may overflow with goodness in His Name and by the power of Jesus. Amen.

POPE FRANCIS

Tips for a Happier Life from Pope Francis

Work for peace. “We are living in a time of many wars,” he said, and “the call for peace must be shouted. Peace sometimes gives the impression of being quiet, but it is never quiet, peace is always proactive and dynamic.”



Pope Francis has stepped into his role as global peace-maker in several key regions around the globe. As news of American Alan Gross' release from Cuba spread, Pope Francis' role in facilitating a deal between the two countries quickly became known as a key element to the story. In May the pontiff traveled to the Middle East to visit some of the holiest sites in Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths -- a trip that many saw as a turning point in Christian-Muslim relations. In November Pope Francis prayed alongside the Grand Mufti of Istanbul, Rahmi Yaran, during his trip to Turkey and later, in a crucial moment of conciliation with the Orthodox Church, the pope bowed to a blessing from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I. (photo)

The Church has convoked an International Conference for Prayer and Reflection on Human Trafficking, to be held today, February 8th, feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, the Sudanese slave canonized in 2000. We are called to join our thoughts and our prayers to theirs.

Human trafficking is a crime against humanity! Roughly 21 million people (60% women and children) are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labor and begging, illegal organ removal, domestic servitude and forced marriages, illegal adoption and other forms of exploitation around the world; the United States and Puerto Rico not excluded. For traffickers and pimps, this is one of the most lucrative illegal activities in the world (the third most profitable “business” after drugs and arms trafficking), generating a total of 32 billion dollars a year.



In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis told us that human trafficking affects everyone:

“How I wish that all of us would hear God’s cry “Where is your brother or sister who is enslaved? Where is the brother and sister whom you are killing every day in clandestine warehouses, in rings of prostitution, in children used for begging, in exploiting undocumented labor? Let us not look the other way.”

— The Liturgical Corner

With rare exception, current liturgical law limits preaching homilies during the eucharistic celebration to ordained ministers. This being said, it doesn’t mean that all baptized Christians aren’t called to preach the Gospel. In fact, we are, by the very way we live. And sometimes the preaching by the actions of our lives is far more eloquent and truthful than words. And far more challenging. And far more rewarding.

WHY STAY CATHOLIC?

From the book of the same name by Michael Leach

Catholic social justice teachings

I beg you, look for the words “social justice” or “economic justice” on your church website. If you find it, run as fast as you can. Social justice and economic justice. They are code words. Now, am I asking people to leave their church? Yes!

-Glenn Beck, March 2, 2010

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common...There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

-Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Catholic social thought is not political but spiritual. It springs from the knowledge that each of us is made in the image and likeness of God. Catholic social teaching is founded on the principles of solidarity: a spiritual awareness that each of us is responsible for the good of all of us. It is knowing that when a family in Chicago gets food stamps, a city is richer; when a family in Maine receives health care, a state is healthier; when taxes from a corporation in Manhattan help provide shelter for a homeless family on the Gulf Coast, a country is stronger; and when a wealthy country sends AIDS medicine to families in Nigeria, the entire world is blessed.

It is often said that Catholic Social Teaching is our best kept secret. It is a secret because nobody wants to hear about it. I’m still Catholic because it challenges me to be a better Christian.

We are born spiritual as well as material, with a soul to sustain as well as a body. We are meant to grow to our fullest in both. As Teilhard de Chardin said,

“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience”.