

**Depart from evil and do good;  
Seek peace and pursue it.**

(PSALM 34)

*Eleventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*



*San Ignacio de Loyola Parish*

*June 14, 2015*

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**I**n today's Gospel both the land and the mustard seed actualize their potential—they do what by nature they are created to do. At least in the ideal circumstances of parables. A parable is meant to take us beyond the



literal. These two are used by Jesus to help us grasp what is surely beyond the

literal, surely a mystery: the "kingdom of God". This kingdom is not a place or space. It is not something we can discover or conquer. Instead, these parables invite us to be who we are and allow God's kingdom to conquer us. These parables call us to surrender to God's word and action within us, to cooperate with God in bringing about a world filled with abundance and promise. These parables call us to make the kingdom of God a visible reality shaping our daily living.

**Words to reflect upon: to be who we are, to cooperate with God**

*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:**

**Please pray for the sick** Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz** and Peter and Leida Fiorito.

*Let us pray together as a community this week that the Good God will help us be more courageous and compassionate in confronting the evils of violence and poverty in our community.*

## LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

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

The parables in today's readings are comforting because, whether scattered seed or a tiny seed, an abundant harvest and largeness of life will spring up. Even our tiniest acts of kindness—a simple smile or hello—bring forth life and make the kingdom of God present. Our lifelong journey to live the gospel makes the kingdom of God present. God uses us followers of Jesus to make divine presence known. "This is how it is."

**Words to reflect upon: this is how it is**

**Fr. John Talbot** will celebrate the anniversary of his priestly ordination in the Society of Jesus this Saturday, June 20th...

**56 years a priest!**

Blessed are you, Lord,  
Giver of all Gifts!



O Loving God, in these first months of 2015, we have heard the weapons and seen the blood of mass shootings and group violence in Ferguson and Baltimore and San Juan and in hundreds of other cities and towns across our land.

Wrap all and each of these your people in your love. Let them hear: "Come to me you who suffer and are burdened and I will give you rest".

Grant us the courage to work for this end,  
peaceful God. Amen.

## LOVE IS A POWER

...Pray for those who mistreat you;  
...Give to everyone who asks of you;  
...Stop judging; stop condemning;  
...Forgive!

## Discipleship

“To bear wrongs done to oneself with patience is a mark of perfection, but to bear with patience wrongs done to someone else is a mark of imperfection and even of actual sin.” —*Thomas Aquinas*

**Reflection:** Do I have a situation in my life where I should be standing up to protect the rights of another? Is my quiet, seemingly patient attitude allowing someone else to be mistreated or maligned in any way? I must pray for the wisdom and graces necessary to speak up with love and protect the wrongs being done to that person or persons. It is my duty.

## GOD'S KINGDOM IS VISIBLE IN US.

### Gandhi's Daily Scripture Readings for Peace

Gandhi reportedly spent two hours in meditation each day for more than 40 years. This became the bedrock for all his daily work for justice, independence and service. He always read from the Sermon on the Mount and the Bhagavad Gita, the Hindu Scriptures. This week, I thought we could consider a passage from the Gita and pray over them just as Gandhi prayed through our greatest Christian teachings.

This passage from Chapter 2 could be addressed to us directly from the God of peace, “the Lord of Love”.

- Those I love are incapable of ill will and return love for hatred.
- Full of mercy, contented, self-controlled, of firm resolve,
- With all their heart and all their mind given to Me—with such as these I am in love.
- Not agitating the world, nor by it agitated, they stand above the sway of elation, competition and fear, accepting life, good and bad, as it comes.
- They are pure, efficient, detached, ready to meet every demand I make on them as a humble instrument of My work.
- Who serves both friend and foe with equal love, not buoyed up by praise, not cast down by blame, alike in heat and cold, pleasure and pain, free from selfish attachments and self-will, ever full, in harmony everywhere, firm in faith—such a one is dear to Me.

Pondering these sacred texts helps me understand how Gandhi managed such an even keel of peace throughout his life, even as he faced constant death threat, dire poverty and long prison terms. Perhaps these texts might help us, too, on our journey to wisdom, peace and joy.

*John Dear S.J. in The National Catholic Reporter August, 2013, Adapted*

# PEACE

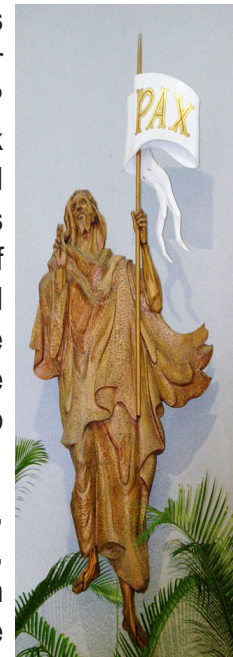
## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Matthew 5:38-48

Here's another old saying that deserves a second look: 'Eye for eye, tooth for tooth'. Is that going to get us anywhere? Here's what I propose: 'Don't hit back at all'. If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, gift-wrap your best coat and make a present of it. And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend', and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemies'. I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer. This is what God does. He gives his best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and the bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

In a word, what I'm saying is, Grow up. You're kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.



*First there is the fall. Then, the recovery from the fall.  
Both are the mercy of God.* *Julian of Norwich*



*I found completeness when each breath began  
to silently say the name of my Lord.*

— *St. Teresa de Avila*