

**LORD, LET US SEE YOUR KINDNESS  
AND GRANT US YOUR SALVATION!**

*Fifteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*



*San Ignacio de Loyola Parish*

*July 12, 2015*

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**B**oth the first reading and Gospel for today indicate that the mission to preach God's message is not self-appointed. Amos declares that it was God who sent him as prophet to Israel (1st reading). The apostles journey forth to preach and heal because Jesus sends them (Gospel). The responsorial psalm also reminds us



that the work of salvation is God's initiative. It is God's kindness we shall see, God's salvation we shall be granted and

God's word that is proclaimed. The call to be prophet, the mission to preach, and the power to confront evil and cure disease come not from ourselves but from God. The Good News is that nothing — demons, illness, opposition, rejection — will impede the saving work of God. We can count on it. We need only to pray for its coming and respond, as did Amos and the apostles, when enlisted in its service.

**Words to reflect upon: The call comes not from ourselves but from 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:**



Sylvia Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie and Don Maziarz and Peter and Leida Fiorito.

*Let us pray together this week for the grace of faith in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred.*

## Laudato Si'

Why Pope Francis' encyclical matters, part II

— Thomas Reese



The encyclical matters because it is an authoritative message by one of the world's great religious leaders. It will become a source of inspiration and ideas for activists, preachers, teachers, theologians and authors who will echo and develop the pope's message. In his encyclical, the pope begins with looking at the facts. What have we been doing to the earth? He then argues that how we treat the earth, how we respond to climate change, are moral questions—in fact, some of the most important moral issues of our time.

The encyclical is also an invitation to dialogue, inviting economists, business people, public officials, environmentalists, inventors and religious leaders to all come together for a conversation on how to protect "our common home".

The encyclical also matters because it puts the Catholic church firmly behind the environmental movement. With the pope's embrace, the environmental movement goes main-stream. Despite its efforts, the movement has had only limited success. Frankly, people are not going to change their lifestyles to protect polar bears. But if history shows us anything, it is that religion can motivate people to do extraordinary things. Religious motives can move people to do extraordinary things. Religious motives can move people to self-sacrifice, to give up their own self-interest for a greater good.

*O Beauty Ever Ancient! O Beauty Ever New!  
You touch my heart with quiet hope,  
stir the embers of my faith and  
fill me with your loveliness.  
Stay with me always! Amen*

*- adapted from St. Augustine -*

## MY APPEAL

**Laudato Si' (13)** The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.



**Laudato Si' (14)** I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.

## GRACED MOMENTS

Occasions of suffering in our lives can be opportunities for growth and development—as persons, as church. These times are also graced moments in which we grow closer to one another and to all of the human family. In one of his many eloquent speeches, Martin Luther King Jr. said *“A man has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individual concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”* In our unity, we become strong and able to bear the good fruits of justice, peace, harmony and truth into the world.

Scripture calls us to grow, both individually and together. Like the mustard seed in Mark's Gospel, we may start small. We may take baby steps that seem imperceptible. But day after graced day, in communion with the Lord and one another, **we can become a force to be reckoned with—a transformative force, one so much needed in our world.**

Day by day, spurred on by the catalyst of suffering, however it comes, we can become a community whose witness draws others to God.

Blessed are you, Energizing and Transforming God!

— **Patricia Sanchez, (adapted)**

## PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



*Responsorial Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14*

*I will hear what the Lord proclaims;  
the LORD — for he proclaims peace.*

Do you hear the proclamation God is making in the world? Where do you see God's kindness? Do you see justice and peace coming together? In what ways is God calling you to proclaim what you hear and see?

## SMALL WAYS TO HELP THE PLANET

### \* **Change your light.**

If every household in the U.S. replaced one regular light bulb with one of those new compact fluorescent bulbs, the pollution reduction would be equivalent to removing one million cars from the road.



### \* **Turn off computers at night.**

By turning off your computer instead of leaving it in sleep mode, you can save 40 watt-hours per day. That adds up to 4 cents a day, or \$14.00 a year. If you don't want to wait for your computer to start up, boot up while you're pouring your morning cup of coffee.

## Could You Embrace That?

I said to God, “Let me love you.”

And he replied, “Which part?”

“All of you, all of you,” I said.

I said to God again,

“Beloved I need to love you—every aspect, every pore.”

God said,

“There is a hideous blemish on my body, though it is such an infinitesimal part of my Being—could you kiss that if it were revealed?”

“I will try, Lord, I will try.”

And then God said,

“That blemish is all the hatred and cruelty in this world.”

— **St. Thomas Aquinas**



## Essay on Adam

by Robert Bringham

There are five possibilities. One: Adam fell.

Two: he was pushed. Three: he jumped. Four:

he only looked over the edge, and one look silenced him.

Five: nothing worth mentioning happened to Adam.

The first, that he fell, is too simple. The fourth, fear, we have tried and found useless. The fifth, nothing happened, is dull. The choice is between: he jumped or was pushed. And the difference between these

is only an issue of whether the demons work from the inside out or from the outside in: **the one theological question.**