

LIVING FAITH

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 24, 2019

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Archdiocese of St. John's



Lk 6:27-38

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

In today's Gospel, we learn the heart of Jesus' teaching—"Love one another." Jesus goes much further than that here. He tells us to love everyone, including our enemies. He uses extreme language to highlight the importance of our relationships to one another. We are to deal with others, mindful of how we ourselves have received the gift of forgiveness from God. This reminds us of the words in the 'Our Father', 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'.

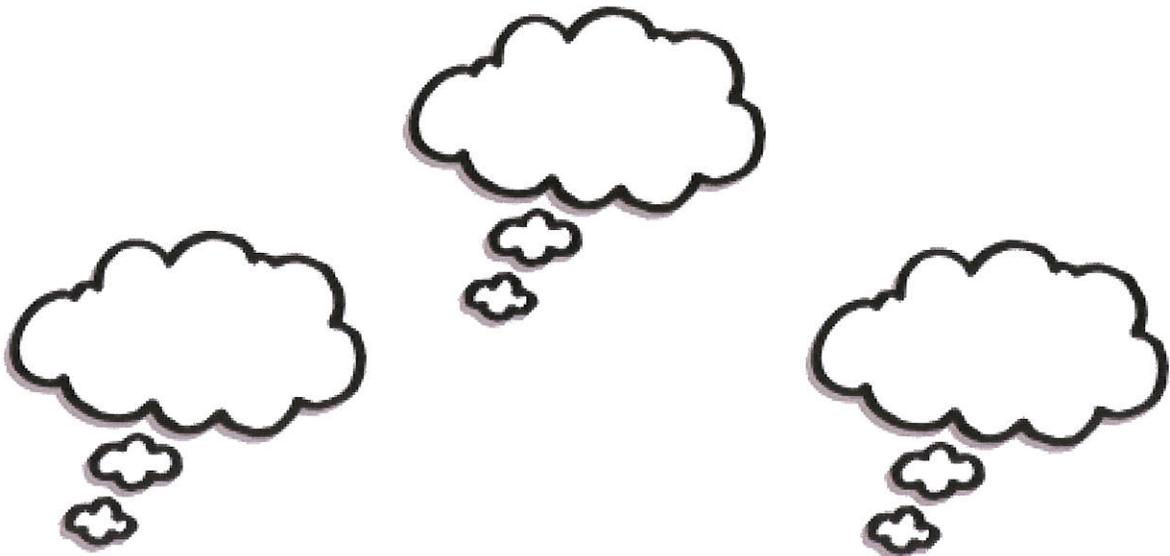
PONDER AND DISCUSS

- How do you show people that you love them?
- What does forgiveness mean to you? What does it look like?

Family Activity: Praying the Lord's Prayer this week.



This week, as a family, name some ways we can pray the Lord's Prayer in our actions over the coming days:





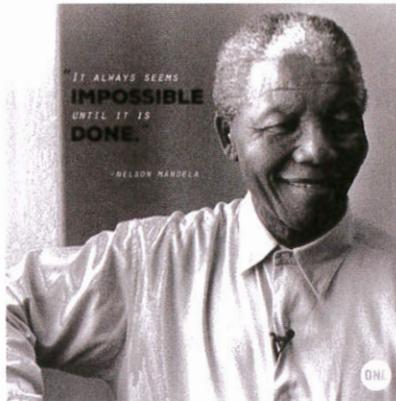
THE CHURCH TEACHES LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

In response to the question about the first of the commandments, Jesus says: "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

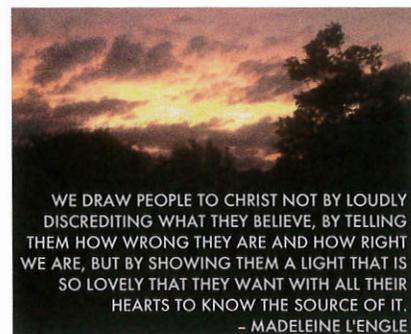
The apostle St. Paul reminds us of this: "He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2196

"Love for enemies is the key to the solution of the problems of our world. Jesus is not an impractical idealist; he is the practical realist. Our responsibility as Christians is to discover the meaning of this command and seek passionately to live it out." Dr. Martin Luther King



"I have never yet met an enemy whom I did not try to turn into a friend." Nelson Mandela



LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

A STORY FROM OUR CHRISTIAN HISTORY

A rich man named Proculus had hundreds of slaves. One slave, named Paulus, was so trustworthy that Proculus made him the steward over his whole household. One day, Proculus took Paulus with him to the slave market to buy some new workers. Before the bargaining began, they examined the men to see if they were strong and healthy.

Among the slaves stood a weak, old man. Paulus urged his owner to buy this slave. Proculus answered, "But he is good for nothing."

"Go ahead, buy him," Paulus insisted. "He is cheap. And I promise that the work in your household will get done even better than before."

So Proculus agreed and purchased the elderly slave. And Paulus made good on his word. The work went better than ever. But Proculus observed that Paulus now worked for two men. The old slave did no work at all, while Paulus tended to him, gave him the best food, and made him rest.

Proculus was curious, and he asked Paulus, "Who is this slave? You know I value you. I don't mind your protecting this old man. But tell me who he is. Is he your father who has fallen into slavery?" Paulus answered, "It is someone to whom I owe more than to my father."

"Your teacher, then?"

"No. Somebody to whom I owe even more. This is my enemy."

"Your enemy!"

"Yes. He is the man who killed my father and sold us, the children, as slaves." Proculus stood speechless. "As for me," said Paulus, "I am a disciple of Christ, who has taught us to love our enemies and to reward evil with good."



"In Jesus and for Him, enemies and friends are to be loved." - Thomas a Kempis

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