



The Word Feeding Justice

**Reflections on the Sunday Lectionary
June 2010**

June 6, 2010: The Body and Blood of Christ Catholic Social Teaching: Rights and Responsibilities

1st Reading: Genesis 14: 18-20
Psalm: 110
2nd Reading: 1st Corinthians 11: 23-26
Luke 9: 11b-17

A divine morsel and sip from the cup of the new and everlasting covenant in the sight of our eyes may appear as a meager meal. Yet it can satisfy the depths of our souls and make peace with God. In obedience to Christ's invitation, we eat and drink His presence not to savor it in self-satisfaction, but to advance the peace and salvation of the entire world. From the blessings we receive, we tithe. Tithe with our resource to support the cause of peace and justice. Tithe with our time to offer our brothers and sisters loving service that proclaims the self-giving death of the Lord with an open ear of understanding, a hand reaching out in compassion and feet willing to walk in solidarity. Tithe with our talents by using the gifts we receive not for self-gratification to dismiss the needs of others and leave them deserted, but to offer constructive, inclusive solutions to society's challenges. For then our world will not suffer from physical or spiritual hunger, as all will eat and have their needs satisfied.

Individual Reflection: 1st Corinthians 11: 23-26

Have the church offer a blessing for those who empower the poor and homeless in your neighborhood and, at the end of service, have one of these people briefly share their experiences.

Family Reflection: Luke 9: 11b-17

As a family, organize a shoe drive at your church and contribute the shoes to:
www.soles4souls.org.

Involvement opportunities:

List one or two upcoming events, legislative action alerts or social justice web sites

June 13, 2010: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Catholic Social Teaching: Care for Creation

1st Reading: 2nd Samuel 12: 7-10, 13
Psalm: 32
2nd Reading: Galatians 2: 16,19-21
Gospel: Luke 7: 36 - 8:3

For decades, planes have carried instruments of destruction to places around the world. Agent Orange defoliated the forests of Vietnam. Depleted uranium emits low level radiation upon sands in the Middle East. Why has humankind spurned peace and done evil upon creation? The cumulative effect of Agent Orange inflicted physical maladies on residents and combatants alike. Their children and grandchildren silently speak the brokenness of war in their physical deformities and psychological deficits. The war ended, but the soil is contaminated with the most toxic chemical dioxins. Three million Vietnamese carry the daily infliction of illness and birth defects and witness to the long-term consequences on people and the environment --- decades after the conflict ceased, departed from TV screens and perception of injustice in the windows of our minds. Depleted uranium, escaping from exploding bombs, scatters toxicity across a new landscape and can pollute soil and water supplies for countless generations. Will it too be forgotten decades later, while people and the environment suffer the consequences of tactics justified in the name of war? Lord forgive the wrong that has been done by proclaiming a false peace thru dominance and degrading your creation. May we live with faith in the Son of God and not by seeking false security in the idolatry of war.

Individual reflection: Psalm 32

Review the website:

www.vn-agentorange.org

Learn about the impact of Agent Orange and share with five friends the environmental consequences of war.

Family reflection: Luke 7:36 - 8:3

As a family, discuss if there is some person or persons you need to forgive. Pray for the strength to forgive and ask God's guidance in seeking the path of forgiveness.

Involvement opportunities:

List one or two upcoming events, legislative action alerts or social justice websites.

<p style="text-align: center;">June 20, 2010: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity</p>

1st Reading: Zechariah 12:10-11, 13:1

Psalm: 63

2nd Reading: Galatians 3: 26-29

Gospel: Luke 9: 18-24

The unity of baptism negates racial divides, work place positions or physical status to faithfully affirm all as children of God. This sacramental grace does not just echo from our lips at Easter liturgies when we renew our baptismal promise, but is actualized daily by how we live, take up our cross and follow Jesus. If we seek to exclude others to save our self interest, we will miss opportunities for cooperation to uphold all and the kindness bestowed when working for the greater good. Our souls will feel lifeless and parched when we live without remembering in baptism we cloth ourselves with Christ. And in the litany of equality, let us not negate the youth. May we hear their voices, encourage them to participate in church and community projects and always remember economic and environmental decisions we make today will impact their future.

Individual reflection Luke 9: 18-24

Jesus asks you, "...who do you say I am?" Answer Him in prayerful solitude.

Family reflection: Galatians 3: 26-29

Have each child identify one economic or environmental concern they have about the future. As a family, look for a way to address that concern in your community.

Involvement opportunities

List one or two upcoming events, legislative action alerts or social justice web sites.

<p style="text-align: center;">June 27, 2010: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Catholic Social Teaching: Rights and Responsibilities</p>
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1st Reading: 1st Kings: 19:16b, 19-21

Psalm: 16

2nd Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-18

Gospel: Luke 9: 51-62

Freedom is a word defined by the absence of necessity, coercion or constraint in choices or actions. Jesus calls us to freedom without self-indulgence, but by serving one another through love. In our passion to follow Jesus and have Him show us the path of life, have we removed the yoke that attaches us to plowing complacency? Do we continually seek to say farewell to another action item on our agenda? Or are we resolutely determined to journey towards Jerusalem with Jesus and not look back for what we left behind? A journey of death to self, where we love our neighbors, all people of creation, as ourselves. This is an inheritance where we can take refuge and seek the Lord's counsel when people's reception questions our values and we need rest from the weariness of the journey. But it is an inheritance guided by the Spirit, abiding in confidence and with fullness of joy.

Individual reflection: Galatians 5:1, 13-18

Each day this week make one decision to answer Jesus' call to freedom.

Family reflection: Psalm 16

Share one VALUE you have inherited or would like to give to someone.

Involvement Opportunities

List one or two upcoming events, legislative action alerts or social justice websites.

Each month we offer reflections written by *JustFaith* graduate, Barbara Born. They are ideal for small communities as well as for parish bulletins. You can contact her at navigatetocreativity@webtv.net