

COMMENTARY ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

Dom Prosper Guéranger

If all perfection be included in love—if, without love, no virtue produces fruit for heaven—it is important for us to remember, that love is not of the right kind unless it include our neighbor; and it is only after stating this particular, that St. Paul affirms that love fulfills the whole law, and that love is the plenitude of the law. Thus we find that the greater number of the precepts of the Decalogue concern our duties to our neighbor; and we are told, that the love we have for God is only then what it ought to be, when we love not only Him, but also what He loves, that is, when we love man whom He made to His own likeness. Hence, the apostle St. Paul does not explicitly distinguish, as the Gospel does, between the two precepts of love. He says: 'All the law is fulfilled in one sentence: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.'

Such being the importance of this love, it is necessary to have a clear understanding as to the meaning and extent of the word neighbor. In the mind of the Jews, it comprised only their own race; and in this they were following the custom of the pagan nations, to whom every stranger was an enemy. But, here in our Gospel, we have a representative of this Jewish diminished law eliciting, from Him Who is the author of the law, an answer which declares the precept in all its fullness. This time, He does not make His voice heard amidst thunder and fire, as on Mount Sinai. He, as Man living and conversing with men, reveals to them, and in the most intelligible way possible, the whole import of the eternal commandment which leads to life. In a parable (wherein, as many think, He is relating a fact which has really happened, and is known to those to whom He is addressing it), our Jesus describes how there was a man who went forth from the holy city, and how he fell in with a Samaritan, that is, with a stranger the most despised and the most disliked of all those whom an inhabitant of Jerusalem looked on as his enemies. And yet, the shrewd lawyer who questions Jesus, and, no doubt, all those who have been listening to the answer, are obliged to own that the neighbor, for the poor fellow who had fallen into the hands of robbers, was not so truly the priest, or the levite (though both of them were of his own race), as this stranger, this Samaritan, who forgets all national grudges as soon as he sees a suffering creature, and cannot look on him in any other light than as a fellow-man. Our Jesus made Himself thoroughly understood; and everyone present must have well learnt the lesson, that the greatest of all laws, the law of love, admits of no exception, either here or in heaven.



SAINT JOSEPH ORATORY

INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

Mailing Address: 6415 South Woodlawn Avenue Chicago, IL 60637

773-363-7409

Rev. Canon James T. Hoogerwerf, Chaplain
canon.hoogerwerf@institute-christ-king.org

Sunday, August 20th, 2023 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Introit

Deign, O God, to rescue me; O Lord, make haste to help me. Let them be put to shame and confounded who seek my life.
Let them be turned back in disgrace, who desire my ruin.
Glory be to the Father . . .
Deign, O God, to rescue me . . .

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, by Whose grace Thy faithful people serve Thee worthily and righteously, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may hasten without stumbling to those things Thou hast promised us. Through our Lord . . .

Epistle

2 Corinthians 3: 4-9

Brethren: Such is the assurance I have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything, as from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God. He also it is Who has made us fit ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the spirit; for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life. Now if the ministration of death, which was engraved in letters upon stones, was inaugurated in such glory that the children of Israel could not look steadfastly upon the face of Moses on account of the transient glory that shone upon it, shall not the ministration of the spirit be still more glorious? For if there is glory in the ministration that condemned, much more does the ministration that justifies abound in glory.

Gradual & Alleluia

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear and be glad
Alleluia, alleluia. O Lord, the God of my salvation, by day I cry out, at night I clamor in Your presence. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 10:23-37

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I say to you, many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and they have not seen it; and to hear what you hear, and they have not heard it. And behold, a certain lawyer got up to test Him, saying, Master, what must I do to gain eternal life? But He said to him, What is written in the Law? How do you read? He answered and said, You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, and with your whole soul, and with your whole strength, and with your whole mind; and your neighbor as yourself. And He said to him, You have answered rightly; do this and you shall live. But he, wishing to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus answered and said, A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell in with robbers, who after both stripping him and beating him went their way, leaving him half-dead. But, as it happened, a certain priest was going down the same way; and when he saw him, he passed by. And likewise a Levite also, when he was near the place and saw him, passed by. But a certain Samaritan as he journeyed came upon him, and seeing him, was moved with compassion. And he went up to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. And setting him on his own beast, he brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I, on my way back, will repay you.' Which of these three, in your opinion, proved himself neighbor to him who fell among the robbers? And he said, He who took pity on him. And Jesus said to him, Go and do also in like manner.

Offertory

Moses prayed in the sight of the Lord his God and said, Why, O Lord, is Thy indignation enkindled against Thy people? Let the anger of Thy mind cease; remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to whom Thou swore to give a land flowing with milk and honey. And the Lord was appeased from doing the evil which He had spoken of doing against His people.

Secret

O Lord, we beseech Thee, graciously look upon the offerings which we lay upon Thy sacred altar; so that they may bring us plentiful forgiveness while they give honor to Thou name. Through our Lord . . .

Communion

The earth is replete with the fruit of Thy works, O Lord; Thy produce bread from the earth, and wine to gladden men's hearts, so that their faces gleam with oil, and bread fortifies the hearts of men.

Postcommunion

May the holy reception of this sacrament, we beseech You, O Lord, restore us to life, and bestow upon us forgiveness and protection.
Through our Lord . . .



WISDOM FROM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

"Behold a quantity of crosses and mortifications which you have neither chosen nor wished; receive them, love them!"

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 1st: No First Friday Mass at Dyer. Please note that all of the canons will be away in Italy following Mass on August 27th through Saturday, September 2nd for the General Chapter of the Institute. Please keep them in your prayers.

BURSAR'S BOX

Sunday, August 6th: \$ 4, 233.00

Sunday, August 13th: \$ 4, 419.00

Sunday, August 15th: \$ 848.00

Total for the Month of August : \$ 9, 500.00

Please make checks payable to "Institute of Christ the King" with *Oratory* on the memo line. All checks made out to "Our Lady of Czestochowa" are given to the Salvatorian Fathers. By order of the bishop, \$1000/week is given in rent to the Salvatorian Fathers.

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