

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time [a]

June 15, 2008

Readings

Exodus 19:2-6a

Romans 5:6-11

Matthew 9:36--10:8

Calendar

Sunday, June 15, Father's Day in the USA

Tuesday, June 17, World Day to Combat Desertification <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/2008/menu.php>

Thursday, June 19, Juneteenth <http://www.juneteenth.com/>

Friday, June 20, World Refugee Day <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/refugee/index.html>

Quotes

There is a growing awareness of the sublime dignity of human persons, who stand above all things and whose rights and duties are universal and inviolable. They ought, therefore, to have ready access to all that is necessary for living a genuinely human life: for example, food, clothing, housing, ... the right to education, and work...

Vatican II, The Church and the Modern World, #26

The God of life summons us to life, more, to be lifegivers, especially toward those who lie under the heel of the powers.

Daniel Berrigan SJ

Love for others, and in the first place love for the poor, in whom the Church sees Christ himself, is made concrete in the promotion of justice.

~ John Paul II, Centesimus Annus, 1991

Human rights are the minimum conditions for life in community. In Catholic teaching, human rights include not only civil and political rights but also economic rights.... This means that when people are without a chance to earn a living, and must go hungry and homeless, they are being denied basic rights. Society must ensure that these rights are protected.

US Bishops, Economic Justice for All, #17

Thoughts for your consideration

The readings today remind us of the mystery of God's call – a call that is personal and also communal -- a call that is addressed to individuals and to the community as a whole. In today's scripture, two elements of this call connect us with the challenge of Catholic Social Teaching.

- (1.) The call comes in the context of affirming **the dignity of the human person**. The people of the Hebrew Scriptures experience themselves as a special possession of God. The disciples of Jesus had this same experience. We too are called to see ourselves as special and filled with the goodness of God. We are called to see ourselves as women and men called to share with the whole world this vision of the dignity, goodness and value of every human person.
- (2.) This call makes sense as it leads us **into action**. It sends us out in concrete service to those in need. Individuals and groups experience their dignity as human persons blessed by God. Jesus calls the disciples and sends them out to be of service. "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." God's call sends us out to serve those in need, to learn from all the diverse people of the world and to challenge the structures of our world with the inclusive vision of Christ.

The readings today call us to get into action to promote the dignity of all human people.

How might Jesus express this call today to the disciples? "Make sure everyone can afford food. Make sure everyone had access to health care. Stop abusing the environment. End the wars. Create and support honest, transparent government. Make sure all the children have a good education."

Questions for Reflection in your Faith Sharing Group

When have you experienced your value and goodness as a human person?
How did this make a difference in your service and care for others?

Actions - Links

Bread for the World's **Recipe for Hope: Responding to the Global Hunger Crisis** is an effort to understand and address the soaring food prices that are effecting so many people around the world, especially the poor. Check it out at <http://www.bread.org/learn/rising-food-prices/>

*Food prices are soaring worldwide, and people are going hungry.
It is easy to feel helpless when you watch people around the world suffering.*

“Crazy Facts”

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 854 million people across the world were hungry last year. They estimate that every day, almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes.

Prayers of Intercession

Response: May the reign of God finally come.

May all human beings be able to afford enough food to eat. We pray

May everyone have access to health care. We pray....

May all people live free from war and terrorism. We pray....

May all our children have access to a good education. We pray....

May our governments all be honest, transparent and supportive of the common good. We pray....

Prayers

The following prayer is from the web site of the Diocese of Syracuse NY at <http://www.syrdio.org/index.asp?path=Prayers&action=view&id=93>

Prayer for the Hungry of the World

Father, in your wisdom you have made us dependent on one another, and so we pray for the starving millions in our world. Give us true repentance for our greed and selfishness. Empower us to make amends as best we can. Help us to find the ways to share so that no one hungers at the table of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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A Prayer

Mother -- Father God: Help us to hear the word and put it into practice.

Let us hear again the challenge of the great prophets.

Let us do what is right and love with enthusiasm.

Sophia – Wisdom: Help us to hear the word and put it into practice.

Help us to discern the way of peace.

Help us to discern the way of right action.

God of heaven and earth: Help us to hear the word and put it into practice.

Let us hear again the stories of our ancestors in faith.

Let us create new stories today – stories of faith in action.

God of peace and justice: Help us to hear the word and put it into practice.

Help us to listen to the world and the cries of those in need.

Help us to respond in solidarity with all those in need.

Holy Spirit: Help us to hear the word and put it into practice.

Fill us with an enthusiasm and joy for what is right and good.

Fill us with virtue that we might do what is good for all.