

Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time [a]

June 1, 2008

Readings

Deuteronomy 11:18,26-28

Romans 3:21-25,28

Matthew 7:21-27

Calendar

June 5: World Environment Day

Quotes

Church has the right, indeed the duty, to proclaim justice on the social, national and international level, and to denounce instances of injustice, when the fundamental rights of people and their very salvation demand it.

1971 Synod, Justice in the World

Flagrant inequalities exist in the economic, cultural and political development of the nations: while some regions are heavily industrialized, others are still at the agricultural stage; while some countries enjoy prosperity, others are struggling against starvation; while some peoples have a high standard of culture, others are still engaged in eliminating illiteracy. From all sides there rises a yearning for more justice and a desire for a better guaranteed peace in mutual respect among individuals and peoples.

Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Letter "Call to Action"

It is not enough to recall principles, state intentions, point to crying injustice and utter prophetic denunciations; these words will lack real weight unless they are accompanied for each individual by a livelier awareness of personal responsibility and by effective action.

Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Letter "Call to Action"

Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the Church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.

1971 Synod, Justice in the World

What we would like to do is change the world- - to make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do. And we can change the world: we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world.

Dorothy Day

Thoughts for your consideration

Genuine faith, religion, and spirituality are more than sentimental feelings or ideological statements. Faith, religion, and spirituality are transformative.

Faith leads to action. Religion involves doing. Spirituality is reflected in behavior.

Our faith, our religion, and our spirituality all call us to action on behalf of others.

They all call us into healthy human relationship or community.

Healthy relationship involves service of others and a commitment to create a world of peace and justice for all. Healthy relationship involves working to create structures and institutions that support this peace and justice and leave no one out.

The 1971 Synod of Bishops in Justice in the World put it well:

Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel, or, in other words, of the church's mission for the redemption of the human race and its liberation from every oppressive situation.

Moses told the people: "Take these words of mine into your heart and soul."

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

Questions for Reflection in your Faith Sharing Group

How does your local community put faith in practice?

How are its values made real in action?

Actions – Links

In June the U.S. Senate will begin debate on the Climate Security Act, S. 2191, a piece of legislation to try to begin to address climate change. Physicians for Social Responsibility has info on the bill and suggestions about contacting the senate. Learn more at:

http://www.psr.org/site/PageServer?pagename=LearnMore_Climate_Security_Act&autologin=true&JServSessionIdr007=5o907mmz32.app7b

“Crazy facts”

National Geographic News reports:

- “Average temperatures have climbed 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit (0.8 degree Celsius) around the world since 1880, much of this in recent decades, according to NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.”
- “Glaciers and mountain snows are rapidly melting—for example, Montana's Glacier National Park now has only 27 glaciers, versus 150 in 1910.”

Prayers of Intercession

Response: Holy Spirit, help us listen and help us become doers of your word.

We recall the poor of the world, especially those without enough food this day.

We recall the victims of the recent natural disasters in Burma and China.

We remember the people of Iraq who are caught up in ongoing war and violence.

We remember our planet earth which is so stressed by overuse and abuse.

We keep in mind those in prison and jail.

We keep in mind those in hospitals and nursing homes.

We look into our own hearts and at our own action and inaction.

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.