



Bringing Home the Word

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

June 30, 2024

Equality and Equity

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

We operate under two very different economic systems. On one hand, in society, the measure to which we claim a right is determined by the character and extent of our earning power. On the other hand, what is described in St. Paul's admonition to the Corinthians is more like the way economics operates in a family. There, one's need, rather than one's earning power, determines the measure of what we might claim as our right. Both systems are built on important, though sometimes different, values. The prominent economic system in today's world advocates equality as the value

upon which it is built. This includes equal pay for equal work, but also equality of opportunity. The system Paul advocates for is built on issues of equity, which recognizes that all things are not equal. It insists that those who need more should receive more.

Both systems also face pitfalls. This could occur when a system based on equality does not operate on an "equal playing field." In such a situation, equality can lack justice. Then again, a system in which need or equity plays an important role must always be on the alert for idleness. Experience has shown that people tend to take advantage of either system.

In an ideal system, both values operate. This is what St. Paul is actually advocating. He does not expect the rich to become poor. However, he does insist that as a matter of justice, and not charity, legitimate needs should be met. After all, we all are called to join the household of God. †

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24

God formed us to be imperishable... But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

For your sake [Jesus] became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Mark 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

[Jesus] took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!"

Saint Paul insists that as a matter of justice, and not charity, legitimate needs should be met.

A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus goes beyond sins. Jesus goes beyond prejudices. Jesus does not stop at appearances, but reaches the heart. And he heals precisely the one who had been rejected by everyone, an impure woman. He tenderly calls her "daughter"—Jesus' style was closeness, compassion and tenderness: "Daughter..."—and he praises her faith, restoring her self-confidence.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 27, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Is there anyone in your community who feels like an outsider?
- Are you willing to reach out to them?

Finding Common Ground in Prayer for Peace

Paige Byrne Shortal

I was in a used bookstore and found *The Oxford Book of Prayer*—a collection of intercessory prayers from all traditions, organized by topic. I took the book to the counter and asked, “How much?” “Why do you want it?” the clerk asked. “I write prayers for a living,” I explained. “Cool job,” he said, and charged me a dollar.

It is a “cool job.” But sometimes it’s challenging. How can we pray together when we disagree? What do we say to God, out loud, in the presence of others, without inadvertently demanding from someone an unwilling “Amen”? I remember the prayer volleys of a community I worshipped with in the 1970s. Whether the topic was the Vietnam War, or the presidential election, or the role of women in the church, words would fairly ricochet off the walls



as passionate statements in the form of prayers were lobbed around the room.

A couple of very good pastors taught me to look for common ground. One of those pastors, Bishop Paul Zipfel, now gone to God, offered a Mass on the eve of Desert Storm, and began by saying

something like this: “Some of us think going to war is what we need to do. Some of us think it’s a dreadful mistake. Some of us think all war is wrong. But we all want the same thing. We disagree on the means, but we all want the same thing. We want to feel safe. We want a future for our children. We want beauty, calm, and a place to grow. We want peace. We all want peace. And so, let us unite ourselves in our prayer for peace.”

As we celebrate this Independence Day, let us unite ourselves across this land and pray for peace. *For peace among the nations and in all the troubled areas of the world; for peace wherever there is violence and people live in fear; for peace among neighbors and within our families and communities; for peace within our hearts... we pray. Lord, hear our prayer.* †

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “Building Communion in Culturally Diverse Parishes” by Hosffman Ospino, PhD

Four Practical Ways to Create Community

- Pray and worship together in the languages of your community.
- Learn people’s stories. Create safe spaces for all to share their individual story. Listening to each other’s stories with interest and respect builds community.
- Serve one another. Identify the most urgent needs of members in your parish and tend to them as a community of believers. Culturally diverse parishes are excellent places to practice Christian solidarity.
- Proclaim the good news to one another with joy in the various languages of the community. Do it incessantly. Remember that the Church exists to evangelize, not to assimilate anyone into a particular culture. †



*God of all nations,
inspire our leaders
to make decisions
that will ensure the
safety and well-
being of every
mother’s child.
We pray in Jesus’
name. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

July 1–6

Monday, Weekday:
Am 2:6–10, 13–16 / Mt 8:18–22

Tuesday, Weekday:
Am 3:1–8; 4:11–12 / Mt 8:23–27

Wednesday, St. Thomas:
Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29

Thursday, Weekday:
Am 7:10–17 / Mt 9:1–8

Friday, Weekday:
Am 8:4–6, 9–12 / Mt 9:9–13

Saturday, Weekday:
Am 9:11–15 / Mt 9:14–17

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