

Our Household Church: Mirror, Mirror! WHAT?!?

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 27 February 2022

WE GATHER AS PRAYER:

Women: Creator (Father) we gather in our (*home, apartment, on the internet, ...*) to thank you

Men: and to hear the stories of your love for all people in the past,

Women: and to inform one another of your action within our lives today.

All: God our Creator, and Father, because you are always good, all the time, we thank you for walking always with us to open our eyes and to light your fire in our hearts.

Men: By the Word of the Gospel, taught to us by Jesus,

All: you have invited people, **Women:** of every language, **Men:** tribe and nation.

Women: You fill the gathering of believers with life by the power of your Spirit. **Men:** You always gather the human race to be one as you are with Jesus and with the Holy Spirit.

All: That is our call and gift in You, to be one people from many places.

Women: Giving us life in families and households **Men:** you call us to be hope for one another.

All: You fill us with the hope of being one day with you where you live.

Men: You invite us to be your light and to shine brightly **Women:** and to be signs of your faithful presence

All: in our homes and families, in our schools and work, in our parish and neighborhood. This unity you promised would last for eternity in Christ Jesus our Brother.

WE READ, LISTEN and SHARE:

For today's complete Readings [click here](#) . Read each reading, **Sirach 27:4-7, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58** and the Gospel **Luke 6:39-45** While someone reads the Scripture(s) (at least the Gospel), listen well. BE ATTENTIVE TO THE IMAGE BEING PAINTED, OR THE STORY BEING TOLD. DOES THE STORY OR THE IMAGE CALL TO MIND ANYTHING SIMILAR IN YOUR OWN LIFE EXPERIENCE? After the reading, share your impressions of the reading(s):

Today, the Readings give us some mentoring through some old sayings. Sirach (one of the Wisdom books found in the pre-Reformation Bible) works on something similar to "an apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

✓ *Can you think of a time that you (the apple) were known by people because someone knew one of your parents? Or, on the other hand, what traits do you see in yourself or another which are obvious from their "trees?"*

Where Sirach is going with his text, though, is a little bit different. Sirach wants us to recognize the impact our upbringing has to do with our "health:" actions, spiritual, etc.

✓ *When your "sieve" gets shaken, what husks (i.e., scars, hurts, defenses) become visible?*

✓ *How have you learned to process those to move beyond being controlled by them?*

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Have you ever thought that you could fix something or cook a dish without a recipe only to find out there were parts left over or the dish's taste was lacking something – like taste?

✓ *To whom did you turn to get the item fixed? ...to get what was missing from the recipe?*

Luke has Jesus pointing out, **Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit?** "Hun, why don't you stop and ask for directions?" Have you ever used that? "I can find it! It's okay! I've been here before!" And then the humble pie eating contest!

✓ *When have you been too stubborn to say I need help? ...and help from someone who might have an idea of what is needed?*

✓ *How long did it take to "go see the doctor," "accept the reality of an addiction," "needing help understanding Algebra II," "the plumbing issue was beyond your ability?"*

Luke has Jesus taking this as a continuation of last week's Gospel about forgiveness. **Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?**

✓ *When have you found yourself criticizing someone to suddenly have the mirror image come brightly in return to you?*

Sometimes it's not black and white: OMG! I do the same thing! I just haven't been caught!

✓ *How did you work it out with forgiving and being forgiven? ...or did you cut and run?*

We are a sum of life's lessons! Well done actions and connections! As well as actions that are embarrassing with "scars" to show for them. At the end of the Gospel, it looks like Luke makes it a bit cut and dry. Good begets good, Bad begets bad. And the fruit is known in the action.

✓ *What place does conversion play in our lives?*

Here's a web site that you might find interesting/challenging to work with: [We Are All Criminals](http://www.weareallcriminals.org).

ONE IN FOUR PEOPLE IN THE U.S. HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD.

FOUR IN FOUR HAVE A CRIMINAL HISTORY. WE TELL THEIR STORIES.

WE BREAK BREAD IN UNITY AND HOPE:

Men: Jesus, when you walked with the disciples and so many who came to you for hope and acceptance,

Women: you often sat with them at their tables, picked ears of grain walking through a field, sat at the seashore and on hillsides with big crowds and you ate with them. **All:** Come now, Jesus, be our guest. We welcome you to our table as **Women:** we light this candle (*light a candle on the table*) **All:** because you are the light in our home (*household/family/friends/etc.*). As we have shared your story and our story, **Men:** we break this bread with one another, **All:** and know that we are one in you, and you in us. (*Pass some form of bread with each person breaking off a piece. After everyone has a piece of the bread, pray together [repeating after a leader if there are small children present]*)

All: We eat this Bread aware of our longing for you. Jesus, nurture us and help us be your life for one another as well as for all who suffer loss and lonely distance from the people they love. (*Then eat the bread together. When finished, then continue the following.*)

Men: We know the story of when you told Moses to give water to the people in the desert.

Women: We know the story of your calming the thirst of the woman at the well. *Pass a pitcher of water, juice, etc. to each person. After the glasses/cups have been poured, pray together [small children present? repeat after a leader]:*

All: Heal our thirst for Eucharist as we share this drink.

Heal our thirst for health and community as we are aware of others

- who sacrifice to serve people who are ill?
- who sacrifice their livelihood for the sake of all of us?
- who have been hurt or abused?
- who have been accused falsely?
- who have accused us/me falsely?
- who are "owned" by addiction?
- who are alone and isolated?
- (*For whom else to pray?*)

When the petitions are finished, everyone drink from their glass/cup. Pause a moment.

Men: Gentle and Loving Shepherd,

Women: as you open our eyes to (*one another, our family, group of friends, colleagues*)

All: as the church which forms us and heals us.

Allow us to grow in faith together and to renew our parish community by the light of the Gospel.

Men: Strengthen our commitment **Women:** and willingness to be one with the others

All: who form our community.

All: Our Father...

May God give us Peace!

May we live in Peace!

May we become Peace!

Text of the Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs I edited by Charles McCarthy, franciscan

www.sw.franciscans.org/sundayagape

<https://www.weareallcriminals.org/>