

15th Sunday of the Year C
July 10, 2022

REFLECTION

Cultivate a sensitivity of heart that leads to action.

In today's Gospel, Luke 10:25-37, Jesus delivers the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells the story in the context of a discussion about the Law. "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" The rich young man professes how much he has kept the law strictly and then expresses further anxiety. As Pope John Paul II points out, this question gives rise to an entire narrative (cf. *Salvifici Doloris*, no. 28), and should not be separated from the passage referring to the final judgment, in which Jesus identifies Himself with anyone who is suffering hunger, thirst, is in want of clothing, imprisoned, or sick (Matthew 25:31-46). The Pope stresses the need for acquiring a new perspective that flows from a merciful heart: "Everyone who stops beside the suffering of another person, whatever form it may take, is a Good Samaritan...[The] opening of a certain interior disposition of the heart, which also has an emotional expression of its own. [We] must cultivate this sensitivity of heart." (SD, 28). While it is important to cultivate this new sensitivity of heart, the Pope stresses that it should lead to action, to lending effective help to those in need. "The good Samaritan of Christ's parable does not stop at sympathy and compassion alone...a good Samaritan is one who brings help in suffering, whatever its nature may be. Help which is, as far as possible, effective. He puts his whole heart into it, nor does he spare material means. We can say that he gives himself, his very 'I,' opening this 'I' to the other person. Here we touch upon one of the key points of all Christian anthropology. Man cannot 'fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself' (*Gaudium et Spes*, 24). A good Samaritan is the person capable of exactly such a gift of self" (*Salvifici Doloris*, no. 28).

Ana Marta Gonzalez (*Scripta Theologica*, December 2018) points out that "in its apparent simplicity, the parable of the Good Samaritan conveys an unusually deep message, which has over the centuries awakened consciences and sparked authentic spiritual mobilizations. Its religious message has crystallized into ethical, personal and institutional expressions." As Christian men and women called to be perfect, we are living our vocation to sanctity by observing the law of God in the middle of the world. We are thus challenged to put the law into practice. Saint Paul says: he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law (Rom 13:8); we cannot say we love God whom we have not seen, and yet we do not love our neighbor whom we see every day (cf. 1John 4:20). If we live the law of God in this way of love, it would bring us to practice "The works of mercy." These are "charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2447). These are concrete ways for us to be Good Samaritans.

Have a blessed Sunday.
Fr. Casmia

Announcement

The GRAND ANNUAL APPEAL

The Grand Annual Appeal is still going on. Once more, we appeal that you kindly consider donating to help our parish meet up with its target.