

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
Matthew 7:12

Presence of God

We pause and remember that we are made in the image and likeness of God. He, our Loving Creator, loves us with an everlasting love and continually abides with us. We are His people. He is our God.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 10:25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" -Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live." But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." The Gospel of the Lord!

REFLECTION

Chances are that you were bullied. It might have happened a long while ago or it might be happening now, in school, in the neighborhood, at the movies or on the ball field. It might have happened once or many times. But one thing is certain – you can still remember it clearly, the bullying and the bullies. You want to do everything you can so it does not happen to others. Usually there is no special target or unique group that alone suffers from bullying. It can happen to anyone – male or female, tall or short, popular or a loner, athletic or artistic. Bullying knows no discrimination.

Bullying is cruel and meant to be cruel. There is nothing playful or funny about it. Bullying is intentional not accidental and is meant to isolate the victim and puts the victim in a position of powerlessness. It involves real emotion and quite possibly physical violence.

Bullying can occur any place and at any time including the internet.

DO TO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO TO YOU! (Matthew 7:12)

From CHRISTOPHER NEWSNOTES 538 – STAND UP TO BULLYING

A THOUGHT

Let us remember that when we laugh at someone, they feel pain.

Let us remember that when we pick on someone they are angry but also afraid.

Let us remember that when we don't stick up for someone who is being bullied, they are alone.

Let us remember that we bully because we want to feel strong, the boss.

But are we? What have we done?

We have forgotten our own fear by making others frightened.

We have forgotten our own loneliness by leaving one of us alone.

We have hidden our own nightmare in another's terror.

It is no longer enough to be sorry.

It is no longer enough to boast and swagger.

These attitudes are hollow, skating on the thin ice of our own fears, our own hates.

May we have the courage to confront ourselves in the 'not me', 'don't want to know', 'it's their problem', 'I'm not involved'.

May we have the courage to confront ourselves in the 'I'm right', 'She's black', 'He's stupid', 'I'm me and it's my world, not theirs'.

For we are all hurt, all afraid, all alone, all different, all me, and the world is all ours.

We all have only one life.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, we know that You have given us the freedom to choose. We can choose whether to treat others with kindness and respect or to scorn, bully and abuse them. Help us to choose rightly. Help us to recognize the Divine Image in each one of us, however different we may be as individuals.

Help us to resist the pressures of others who want us to join them in making someone a victim of their cruelty. Help us to know that in hurting others we are harming our better selves and hurting You. Amen.

JOHN 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another: just as I have loved you,
you also are to love one another.
By this all people will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.

BLESSING

May the Lord walk beside us to comfort us.
May the Lord walk above us to watch over us.
May the Lord walk behind us to keep us safe.
May the Lord walk before us to show us the way.
May the Love of God surround us,
May the Grace of God astound us,
May the Hope of God ground us.
AMEN.

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS.
FOREVER!