



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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July 14, 2019

Who Is Your Neighbor?

This weekend's story of the Good Samaritan appears only in Luke's gospel. Jesus tells the parable in response to a question posed by a lawyer, one versed in the Jewish law, regarding eternal life. Both Jesus and the lawyer agree that the core of the Jewish legal tradition is summed up in the commands to love God and to love neighbor.

The preliminary point is that the goal of human life is to learn how to love. If you want to inherit eternal life, enter the "God-zone" even now by putting aside self-concern. Learn to love. Seek to love God, and to take care of your neighbor with the same care as you care for yourself. This is what it means to learn how to love.

Eternal life is at stake. This is one of those crucial issues of ultimate meaning. So the lawyer presses Jesus. "Who is my neighbor?" The lawyer expects Jesus to say that the neighbor is someone close to you, like a family member or clansman. The belief of the Mediterranean world was that a neighbor was someone who lived in close proximity – someone in the neighborhood.

But what about Jewish law? Does the law require extending care for another, as profound as one's care for oneself, beyond the family unit, the household, or the local community? Jesus does not answer the lawyer directly or define the neighbor's identity. Instead, he tells a story of what it is to love, to act neighborly.

The injured man probably did not invoke much sympathy from Jesus' hearers. Most likely he was a trader, perhaps dishonest himself. But certainly the audience would have felt bad about a beaten man lying near death in a ditch.

In the story, the priest and the Levite (who knew the commands of the law as did the lawyer) felt revulsion and passed by. The story does not explain why. Were they afraid the man might die, and thus they would incur ritual impurity by touching a corpse, preventing them from exercising their (lucrative) Temple duties? Were they afraid the robbers might still be lying in wait – the beaten man was a lure to precipitate their own attack? Could they think the man must have gotten what he deserved?

Or did they simply not want to get involved?

Jesus introduced a wild card into the story with the appearance of the Samaritan. Even though Samaritans have common ancestry and customs with Jews, they are traditional enemies. The surprise is that an outsider demonstrates how to live rightly by having compassion, by recognizing the man in the ditch as someone needing care.

The one character who is present in the parable from beginning to end is the wounded man. The priest, the Levite, and the Samaritan come and go. The good Samaritan interacts with the wounded man while the other two avoid him. As hearers of the parable, you and I identify with the wounded traveler as the central character. When you put yourself in the shoes of the needy person, we you the underlying point that Jesus makes with the parable.

Imagine yourself in a desperate situation. Ask yourself the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" Your answer will most likely be what the lawyer's answer was, "Anyone willing to help me." In a real crisis, there is no time to discriminate about who might come to your aid. You don't ask the guy pulling you out of a burning car if he is a Catholic, a tax payer, or a convicted felon.

Today's Readings:

Deuteronomy 30:10-14
Colossians 1:15-20
Luke 10:25-37

Next Sunday's Readings:

Genesis 18:1-10A
Colossians 1:24-28
Luke 10:38-42

Preaching Next Sunday:
Fr. Craig Boly, SJ

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM
Sunday: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
Sunday Contemplative: 7:30PM
Daily: Monday 8:00AM in church
Tuesday - Friday 8:00AM La Storta Chapel
Centering Prayer: Friday 7:00AM
Anointing Mass: First Friday 8:00AM
First Saturday Mass: 8:00AM
Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30-4:30PM
or by appointment with a priest

Continued next page >>>

Through the parable, Jesus urges the lawyer to put aside his prejudices against Samaritans. When you and I imagine ourselves as the one left for dead by the road, it is possible to let prejudices about religion, race, or anything else evaporate. Mercy and compassion are welcome from whoever stops to help.

The ultimate “Good Samaritan” of course is Jesus himself. The good news is that Jesus is the good Samaritan to everyone in need. He brings the face of God’s compassion to everyone looking for God’s mercy. When you are in the ditch of life, you can count on Jesus to bind up your wounds and ensure your consolation. And where do you see the face of Jesus? In everyone who sees anyone in need and responds with sympathy and care.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor

Registration is OPEN

Our 2019-2020 Sacramental Preparation program for **First Reconciliation and First Eucharist** starts in Sept. Children 2nd grade and older are eligible. Our Family of Faith Program is also accepting registrations and meets monthly starting in September. This program is for the whole family. For more information, visit our website or email bschaller@sipdx.org.



Application Open for SEEL

Do you desire to deepen your prayer life and grow in your relationship with God? Consider making the *Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL)*. Applications are now being accepted for 2019-20. The deadline for applications is August 1. Please visit our website: <http://seelportland.org> for more information or call Janet Buck at (503) 951-8682.

Seeking Parish Sponsors

One of the blessings of our faith is witnessing those who are choosing to dive into it for the first time. The RCIA process is a time where candidates are invited into a deeper awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. Please prayerfully consider accompanying these RCIA candidates as they discern their call into the Catholic Church as a parish sponsor. Your role as a parish sponsor would be to: 1) Attend all IGNITE classes on 2nd and 4th Sundays from 6-7:15 PM. 2) Share your own faith experience within the class during times of reflection. 3) Possibly pair up with one particular candidate as spiritual companions. 4) Attend masses that involve the RCIA candidates, e.g. the rites, the scrutinies, and the Easter Vigil. 5) Pray for all RCIA candidates throughout the RCIA process. Please talk to Grace if you are interested in participating in this ministry. gbyrd@sipdx.org

IGNITE—Coming this Fall

Is the Holy Spirit calling you to a deeper Catholic Faith experience? This fall we invite you to a Sunday night series: “IGNITE,” where we will explore what it means to “find God in all things” as we dive into the lives of the Saints and the mystics while reveling in the music and the history of the mass. Facilitated by Joseph and Grace Byrd, this class will meet you where you are, whether you are new to the Catholic faith or a seasoned traveler. Contact gbyrd@sipdx.org or jbyrd@sipdx.org for information.



Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps



Volunteer Service and Welcoming Spiritual Community for Older Adults! (JV EnCorps) is now accepting applications for 2019-20! JV EnCorps, a program of JVC Northwest, facilitates rewarding opportunities for service, community and spiritual formation for adults 50 and older who are committed to social and ecological justice. During their ten months of volunteer

service, participants meet monthly for fellowship, reflection and to explore the values of community, spirituality, simple living and social & ecological justice. Our values arise from the Ignatian Spirituality and JV Encorps is an inclusive and ecumenical community. Priority application deadline: August 31st. Opening Retreat in September. For more information: JVEnCorps@jvcnorthwest.org or www.jvencorps.org.

Mass Intentions

Monday	July 15	† Joseph Louise Markovic
Tuesday	July 16	Bona Oh
Wednesday	July 17	† Don Wolf
Thursday	July 18	Paula Zillmer
Friday	July 19	† Jim Emig

**A warm
welcome
to all our guests.**

**We are so happy you are here
to celebrate with us!**

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