



HOLY MASS

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

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TIME**

**1st R: 1ST Sam. 26:2,7-9,12-13,
22-23**

RESP. Psalm: 103.

2ND R.: 1st Cor. 15: 45-49.

GOSP. ACL: Jn 13: 34.

GOSPEL: Luke 6: 27-38

HOMILY TOPIC

**THE CHRISTIAN RADICAL
APPROACH TO THE ENEMY**

INTRODUCTION

The readings of today lays emphasis on how to forgive the enemy and even love them. This topic today is always a difficult topic humanly speaking, because its demands would always sound unrealistic and impossible but for the grace of God

THE QUESTION IS

- **How is it possible to love and forgive the man who unrepentantly abandoned me in need?**
- **Who betrayed my friendship and trust or marital fidelity?**
- **Who accused me falsely?**
- **Who destroyed my name after helping him/her?**
- **Who revealed my secret given to him/her in confidence?**

THE QUESTION IS

- **Who unfairly snatched your husband from you?**
- **Who raped you and took away your pride?**
- **Who maltreated you in the past?**
- **Who forsook you for another after you had wasted time and resources on him/her?**
- **Who ignored his/her covenant/ promises with you because he/she has got better placed?**
- **My classmate that made noise in the class and lied to the teacher that I was the one?**

THE QUESTION IS

- **Who broke your heart?**
- **The person who murdered your son/daughter/ partner?**
- **Who forgot all you did for him/her and repaid you with so much ingratitude?**
- **Who scammed me and ran away with my business capital, and now my business is gone?**
- **Indeed, all of us could reconcile with some of these in our lives....**

FIRST READING

Sam. 26:2,7-9,12-13, 22-23

The 1st reading of today reveals those outstanding qualities of David that make him a 'man after God's heart' and a model for today's Christians, namely; a rare forgiving heart in a world fermenting with great bitterness. We see in him an utter fear of God and respect for his anointed in a world increasingly dominated by news of attacks on the clergy especially within the Church in recent times. We see in him a deep sense of humility and contrition in a world of pride and arrogance

GOSPEL

Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38

Jesus tells us today not just to forgive our enemy (not just your offender but that individual that hates you, considers you a threat and often stands against your life and destiny like Saul to David, and works against it) but to go further and love them.

SECOND READING

1st Cor. 15: 45-49

The second reading talks about the new body that we shall receive after death. Whom can we hate or do wrong to in this world if we believe that we shall all sit down together one day in the house of our Father?

THE CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO THE ENEMY

So how can a Christian love and forgive his enemy in a world in which meekness is increasingly taken for weakness? The answer is in this recommended approach from Christ.

THE CHRISTIAN APPROACH TO THE ENEMY

**This approach could be
layered into three:**

- Forgiveness**
- Love**
- Resignation**

FORGIVENESS:

This is the first for it is not possible to go further to love someone whom you have not yet forgiven. This is the spiritual disposition to excuse the offender, empathize with him. Let go, drop the burdens off your chest, look beyond the offence and look on God's love and forgiveness. This is only possible when we ask for His grace.

FORGIVENESS:

when we evaluate the psychological, physical, spiritual, social, moral self-damage of unforgiveness; when we realize that every experience is a school from which we learn something; when we realize that human behaviours may have extra-physical basis and influences; when we agree that forgiveness is the highest revenge, for when we forgive we kill not just the enemy but the enemy

LOVE:

This is the disposition to go beyond forgiveness and think for the over-all good of the perceived enemy; to sincerely wish for His best and work for it; to repay him good with evil. This is only possible with the grace of God and made easier when we realize the nuclear force in love. When we remember that love begets love and that what we give is often what we receive; when we reflect that God is love and His love is non-discriminatory and those who deserve love least, need it most and All who live in Him must live in Love

LOVE:

when we meditate on the fact that Christian love to be love must be sacrificial or no love at all when we remember that The Lord instructs us to ‘conquer evil with good’ (Rom. 12: 21) and that revenge only enhances the spiral of hatred and bitterness, when we realize in deed that every human being regardless of how spiteful, sinful or scornful has a divine spark in them and so deserves our love.

RESIGNATION:

This is the disposition to hand over the case to God even when we can do something ourselves about it. It is the disposition to play the sheep and leave God to be the shepherd, to realize that vengeance belongs to Him, to leave the fight for God .

RESIGNATION:

David's attitude in today's 1st Reading is an example of this Christian approach. He would not take revenge even when he had opportunity. He felt it was not His to do but God's. Confer here the story of a man who abandoned his wife in the hospital for another woman yet the wife forgave, repaid him with love and converted the concubine in the process.

EVALUATION:

What heavy burdens of anger, hatred and revenge are there in your heart? It must really be heavy! A number of us have gone that path and may still be going through the same path. It has often been like shooting oneself on the leg just in order to kill a mosquito or gnat. We must decide today to give forgiveness a trial. It is time to accept His invitation no matter how difficult for to err is human and to forgive, divine!

**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH
NO. 2844**

**Forgiveness is the
fundamental condition of the
reconciliation of the children
of God with their Father and of
men with one another.**

CONCLUSION:

- **We pray the Lord to level every “mountain” of hatred and acrimony, vengeful anger and sadness in us, with His grace, to free us from the prison of the past and give us the courage to live free and positive! Amen**
- **Give me the grace to follow!**

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH OF OUR PARISH

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of creation. From age to age you raise people for yourself. We thank you for the growth and achievements that we have attained so far as a family of Immaculate Conception Catholic parish. United in Jesus Christ, you form us as a parish with the mission of nurturing disciples through faith and human development, hospitality, prayer, and service. Groom us until we become equipped disciples empowered to serve.

We pray for our pastoral team, the parish priest, the pastoral council, and all leaders of organizations and societies. In their decisions and choices, grant them the wisdom to always understand your divine plan for us as a people. May they always be guided by the Holy Spirit as you build us up for your glory.

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH OF OUR PARISH

Lord Jesus, we commit our present and future projects to you. We beg you, to provide the resources we need to build a befitting place of worship for you. Please bless us and give us a generous heart moved by faith and trust.

Dearest Mary immaculate, please intercede for us before your son Jesus Christ, that our journey as a Christian people might win us eternity. Amen

Mary immaculate, mediatrix of all graces

pray for us