**15th Sunday, Ordinary(C). 2025**

**Jesus’ story of Good Samaritan teaches us a profound and challenging truth in our life**. A Jewish traveler is beaten, robbed and left half-dead along the road. First a priest and then a Levite come by, but both avoid the man. Finally, a Samaritan comes by. Samaritans and Jewish generally despised each other. But here the Samaritan helps the injured Jew. Now Jesus asks, “***Which of these three men was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers***”. We know the answer, “***The one who helped him”. “You are right”, Jesus says, “Now you go and do the sam***e”.

The story of the “**Good Samaritan**” has inspired the hearts, minds and creativity of the world’s best artists and painters. ***What does this story mean to you and me***”? The world is full of people who are in desperate need of a neighbor. We cannot pass by the needy untouched and untouchable. Be merciful and get involved with others who suffer. **St. Paul in today’s second Reading** reminds us that, ***just as Christ Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God-” so our neighbors are the visible image of Christ living in our*** **mids**t.

The best known of Jesus’s parable has so many spiritual levels. It clearly indicated that a “**neighbor**,” is anyone who needs help and anyone who gives that help. Thus the correct approach is not to ask the question, “**Who is my neighbor**”? but rather to ask, “**Am I a Good neighbor” to others**?. The final command of Jesus, the Heavenly Good Samaritan, given during the last Supper was: “**Love others as I have loved you” because the invisible God dwells in every human being.**

When the challenge of the Gospel becomes concrete, specific, local and personal, we become subtle as tax Attorneys to find ways of avoiding it. Let us remember, **that road from Jerusalem to Jericho passes right through our hom**e, parish and work place. We may find our spouse, children or parents lying “wounded” by bitter words or verbal attack or physical abuse. Hence Jesus invites us to show our love to others, in our home, in the work place, and in the neighborhood, as the Good Samaritan did. We are invited to be people of generosity, kindness and mercy towards all who are suffering. Let us check to see if we are good neighbors and be willing to be touched by persons we have once despised. Our neighbor is the person in need who crosses our path. That need may be for money, for our time, our compassion, our contacts, our advice, for our help to get back on track.

The Lawyer’s question was, just **who is my neighbor**”? The Lord’s answer to him and to us is, “**Don’t worry about that**”. **Just be a neighbor to the person in need who crosses your path**”. That person is our neighbor in God’s sight. The message of the parable of Good Samaritan to all of **us-you and I –is to be as good a Samaritan to others as Jesus was** to us. To make it precise, be a blessing to others in your life. The question about eternal life posed by the scholar of the law in todays’ Gospel is “the question”. Jesus’ answer to him, in the parable of the “Good Samaritan”, is the central message of the Gospel: **love one another as Christ has loved us.** As redemption is found only in Christ, our challenge is to to live according to his commands and to love the Lord as a lifetime response to his offer of life. **To hear, understand, and go and do likewise.**

Father, help us to love you with all hearts and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves”, Amen.