



Practice of Charity

(Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2026")

Jesus is incredibly clear in today's Gospel about what the greatest commandments are - love of God and love of neighbor - and the Old Testament reading is equally clear about what the latter commandment looks like in practicalities. As distinct as these mandates are, it is easy for us to allow the implementation to go foggy: where we draw the lines of who our neighbor is, the limits we put on our compassion and generosity, and how quickly care for the least among us can become politicized. As Christians, we are challenged to rise above those obstacles and be "a model for all the believers" as the reading from 1 Thessalonians exhorts us.

Take time to pray over the question, "who is my neighbor?" in response to the latter commandment. How is the Lord calling you to honor it?

Consider who is your "neighbor" in your community, especially based on the examples described in Exodus. Find a way to give your time to serve them, or contribute to organizations that do.

Reflect on those same examples from Exodus, and review the ministries of your faith community. Are you attending to your "neighbors," and if not, what can change?