

## **The Call to be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect 2/23/2020**

In our first reading and the gospel, God's calls us to be holy as He himself is holy. God wants us to stop all kinds of hatred toward our fellow human beings because we are all brothers and sisters. We were all made in his image and likeness. In the second reading from the letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded that we are the temple of God and the Holy Spirit dwells in us. One way to be holy is to learn to forgive your enemies. Jesus gave us the example from the cross.

I came across a story of three boys whose parents were killed in an air crash in Colorado some years ago. The cause of the accident was a bomb someone had planted in the aircraft. When the tragedy was occurred, the local school community organized a prayer service to show their love for the young children and to pray for the repose of the young parents. It was at this event that the 11-year-old eldest son requested that the community prays for the person who had done this. He asked them to pray for his healing and forgiveness. The common thing is to seek revenge (An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth) and to pay back wrong for wrong. It's so hard to love those who hate you. So long as we bear our enemies grudge we have given them a place in our precious heart and that is a double dealing to us.

If we can at least attempt what Jesus is enjoining us to do, we need to seek God's grace; remember in the garden of Gethsemane, he prayed that God's will be done. That is how he found strength to pray for his enemies and killers as he hung upon the cross. He prayed 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do'. We would need to ask constantly for divine grace if there is anyone who hates us and whom we need to show kindness. We to pray for our enemies and those who hate us-it frees our hearts to love them and to be willing to show them kindness.