

## ***Weekend of February 23***

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **Barona:**

**Mass:** Tuesday through Friday. Rosary at 7:45 AM, Mass at 8:00 AM. @ Shrine

**Saturday:** 5:00 PM mass

**Sunday:** Sunday 8:00 AM. @ church

**Confessions:** By appointment only

**Adoration:** 1st Fri. of the month (8:00 AM).

### **Viejas:**

**Sunday:** Sunday, 10:30 AM. @ Church

**Confessions:** By appointment only.

### **Sycuan:**

**Sunday:** Sunday Mass 12:30 noon @ the Church

**Confessions:** By appointment only

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR....**

Michele Nikas Beaman, John Nikas, Irmina Gines, Gimo Manuel, Marcie Cu, Joyce Martinez, Dustin Lutze, Sam Halabo, Lisa Smallwood, Eleanor Davis Wallace, Robert and Margie Cruz, Mike Wise, Mary Begay, Tonito Arcangel, Juliet Ray, George Arviso, Rose Ramos, Zita Haygood, Lilly Gautreaux, Mark Noriega, Jim Hughes, Laurie Boedicker, Aspen Sergin, Robert Laurel, Janet Vilareal, John Francis, Orlando Nicolas, Paolo Espiritu, John Clark, Kevin Bethsayag, Tyre Nichols, Steve TeSam, Jeanette Garcia, Mike Banegas, Bennett Zerrudo, Carol Richardson, Nancy Rourke, Jeff Ashii, Rosario and Paul Estepa, Haley Price, Mark Marquez, Lulu Cabinatan, Michael Martinez, Fr. Earl Henley, MSC, Connie Devera, Don Speer, Meta Roubedeaux, Eileen Hansotte, DJ LaChappa, Marcella Villanova, Michael McKnight

Joseph Kardian, Bear Cuero, Autumn Cheyenne Russo, Frances Banegas, Diane Robetkey, Magdalena Castro, Ed Sloan

*Please check prayer list and add names as desired.*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Religious Education with Alyssa Parada:**

**Barona:** 3:00 PM – First Communion Prep

**4:15 – All ages Religious Ed**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sacramental Preparation with Mark Price:**

**Viejas:** 3:00 PM

**Barona:** 4:30 PM

*Sunday Mass is livestreamed @ 8:00 AM, Barona.  
Just go on Facebook under Herman Manuel*

### **MARCH**

**Sunday, March 02**– Children’s Mass, all reservations

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**– Ash Wednesday

Barona 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Sycuan 5:00 PM

Viejas 7:00 PM

**Saturday, March 8** – Rite of Election, Good Shepherd Church. This year we are blessed to have eight candidates participating!

**Sunday, March 9** – 2:00 AM Daylight savings time begins, don’t forget to “spring forward” one hour.

**Sunday, March 16 – Tuesday, March 18** – Lenten Retreat with Most Rev. Felipe Pulido

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### **Prayer for Enduring Love**

Lord, grant us the strength to endure the challenges in our relationships. Help us to remain steadfast in love and to always seek reconciliation and peace. Amen.

**Related verse:** "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." — 1 Corinthians 13:4



## PASTOR'S CORNER

### LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

#### A Challenge for Us All

A reflection on the 7th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

A certain monk was praying under a tree beside a river. As he prayed the tide was coming and the river was rising. Then he noticed a scorpion at the foot of the tree struggling for dear life as the surging waves tried to drown him. The monk stretched out his hand to pull the scorpion to safety but each time his hand came near the scorpion tried to sting him. A passerby saw what was going on and said to the monk: "What are you doing? Don't you know that it is in the nature of a scorpion to sting?" "Yes," replied the monk, "And it is in my nature to save. Must I change my nature because the scorpion refuses to change his?" Today's gospel urges Christians to remain true to their nature to love even when the people around them remain adamant in their nature to hate.

Today's gospel continues the Great Sermon of Jesus from where we left off last Sunday. After speaking about the persecution and violence that will be visited on the disciples, as was done to the prophets of old, Jesus now speaks to the disciples about how they are to respond to the hostility. He begins: "**But I say to you that listen...**" (Luke 6:27). What follows is not a general code of conduct for all and sundry but a standard of behavior for those who follow Jesus and listen to his teachings. If Christianity is a superior religion, the way to show it is not by endless arguments and debates about the true religion but by the superior moral conduct of Christians.

**But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless**

**those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat, do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. (6:27-30)**

What does Jesus mean by "**love your enemies**?" Does he mean we should have enemies and then, in some mysterious manner, love them at the same time? Or does he mean we should not have enemies at all? Taking into consideration that Jesus is speaking about the disciples and their persecutors, we see that "enemies" here means those who hate the disciples, not those whom the disciples hate. Disciples are to hate no one. If by enemies we mean those we hate, then Christians should have no enemies. But if by enemies we mean those who hate us, then we cannot help having enemies. We cannot control how others treat us, we can only control how we treat them.

The disciples lived in a society that hated them and treated them with hostility. What Jesus is asking them in today's gospel is that they should not return hatred for hatred or hostility for hostility. This is an attitude that the church in all its 2000 years of existence has hardly understood. It took godly men like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr to reawaken Christians to the importance of non-violence as the norm of the Christian response to persecution, oppression, abuse and injustice. Jesus remains the greatest teacher and example of non-violence, for even as they were leading him out to a shameful, public execution on the cross, he was still able to say, "**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing**" (Luke 23:34).

We can more easily forgive and offer non-violence to our enemies – those who hate us, not those we hate – by reminding ourselves that they are living and acting in ignorance and that one day the truth will overtake them. Non-violence is not limited to social movements; it is required also in family and interpersonal relationships where we can become victims of verbal and physical violence. While we should do all, we can to put an end to an abusive situation, the gospel reminds us today that, in the words of Gandhi and King, an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind. If there is in our lives a scorpion of hate that delights in stinging us,

let us, like the monk, remain faithful to our  
commitment to love.

***Fr. Munachi Ezeogu, CSSP***