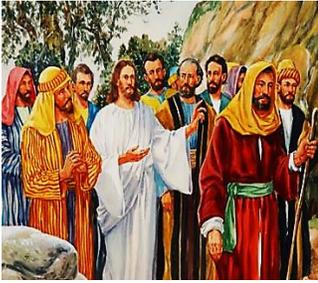


# September 6th, 2020 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the

testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church.

If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector."

– MT 18:15-18

This weekend's Gospel takes me up my memory lane to the time of my formation stages in the religious community. We had a special spiritual activity during the schedule of the day. Before the night prayers, our priest in charge (Prefect) would assemble all the seminarians and give us an opportunity for fraternal correction and confession. A number of misunderstandings were sorted out and we went to bed with peaceful minds and hearts. Perhaps this practice has its roots in the Gospel passage of this day "No man is an island, entire unto himself." Jesus instructs his disciples about fraternal relationship among them. Jesus prescribes a four-step process to mend a broken relationship.

Many scripture scholars have reservations about the last step "excommunication." They wonder if this type of expulsion contradicts Jesus' openness to sinners including tax collectors, prostitutes, or sinners like the prodigal son. We must remember that these repentant sinners expressed their desire *to change their hearts and abandon their sinful ways*. A sinner who doesn't intend to change calls "expulsion" upon himself on his own. He chooses to disassociate himself from the family, community etc. At times they part ways with the family owing to the views they hold, contrary to the family. They elect to be excommunicated and self-isolate themselves.

Fraternal correction is only to be given because we feel obliged to do so for the sake of the person whom we love. We pray about him and for him, asking the Holy Spirit to show him/her the right path. The correction should be motivated out of love and concern and not to demonstrate our authority or self-righteousness. A true affection is accompanied by the humble acknowledgement of our own faults.

Many of us shy away from this responsibility of exercising our duty to perform these spiritual works of mercy, out of fear of losing a friend or family member. Some excuse themselves by saying we have no right to intervene in the private lives of our fellow human beings; others say "As a sinner myself, I do not have the moral courage or right to correct others." As a true Christian and our brother's keeper, we need to attempt and accept fraternal correction.

Let us live exemplary Christian lives and offer fraternal correction through our deeds and actions. And let mutual and self-giving love be the guiding force of our fraternal correction.

May God's protection be upon you and your loved ones. –Fr. Bernard

## Readings This Sunday

Reading I: Ezekiel 33: 7-9

Reading II: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

## Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Sirach 27:30-28:7

Reading II: Romans 14: 7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

**Finance / Stewardship Collection:** The plate last weekend was **\$1,581** and St. Vincent de Paul/Betty Chinn was **\$411**.

## Scripture Study and Lectures at St. Bernard In Memory of Fr. Eric Freed...

Several people have mentioned how much they miss scripture study. In memory of Fr. Eric Freed we will begin again by discussing The Reformations for 12 weeks: 9/13-11/29 with one 20-minute lecture per week, in the St. Bernard Church Hall right after the 10:30 mass. We will meet every Sunday. There will be study notes, but no coffee. Those who stay for the lecture will clean their own spots. –Deacon Frank Weber

## Eureka Holy Mass Intentions

### Saturday 05

8:00 am SH 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. Marian Devotion  
Stella Reyes Int  
4:00 pm SJ Diane Davy †

### Sunday 06

7:30 am SJ No Intention  
9:00 am SH Pedro DeGuzman †  
10:30 am SB Fr. Eric Freed †  
12:15 pm SH No Intention (Sp)  
4:30 pm SH Mass for the People

### Monday 07

12:15 pm SB Hugo Pompati & Family †  
5:30 pm SH No Intention

### Tuesday 08

7:30 am SJ In Honor of God the Holy Spirit  
5:30 pm SH Fr. Eric Freed †

### Wednesday 09

12:15 pm SB No Intention  
6:00 pm SH Adoration

7:00 pm SH For the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading their sheep from all harm. (Sp)

**Thursday 10**

7:30 am SJ Nancy Waldsmith Allen †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

**Friday 11**

12:15 pm SB Chad Kryla Int.

5:30 pm SH No Intention

**Saturday 12**

4:00 pm SJ Mass for the People

**Sunday 13**

7:30 am SJ Arleen Mitchell †

9:00 am SH VanderVeldt Family Int.

10:30 am SB Jim & Martina Traylor †

12:15 pm SH No Intention (Sp)

4:30 pm SH Paul Vevoda †

**Please pray for :** Courtney Train, Marilyn Ziblich, Baby Olivia, Monica Rose Clinewerk, Chad Kryla, Don DeHennis, Basil & Santos Mainus, Harold Giacomini, Chet Branum, Florence, Fran Hill, Isela Adams, Lindy Timmerman & Family, Mary James, Dave Silverbrand, John Bertain, Denise Sledge, James Iron Shell, James Lemon, Wm. Hahn Family, Rose Ann Hurst, Armado De Los Santos, Judy Mill, Julia Walters, Connie Mather, Steve Mill, Ryan Pepper, Fred Pepper, Paul Shabata & Family.

**Living The Spiritual Works of Mercy:**

**Counseling the Doubtful**

Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to him along our way.

\*Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may eventually become wise" (Prov 19:20)

The Cross of Christ "the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength" (1 Cor 1:25)

\*Has someone asked you for advice? Orient your response to Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

\*Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God's love revealed in your actions

\*Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation, share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend's faith concern, and worship at Sunday Mass

**Instructing the Ignorant**

Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith.

\*Go on a service trip or short-term mission trip. No time? \*Donate to support someone on their service trip

\*Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish

\*Invite someone to go to mass with you this weekend

\*Know your faith! Read through the USCCA to find out more about the Catholic faith and how to live it

**Admonishing the Sinner**

Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.

In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times

\*Don't judge, but guide others towards the path of salvation (see Mt 7:1-2)

\*When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction.

\*We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared faith "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye" (Mt 7:5)

**Comforting the Sorrowful**

Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference.

\*Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time

\*Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time

\*Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering. A few moments of your day may make a lifetime of difference to someone who is going through a difficult time

**Forgiving Injuries**

Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God

\*Let go of grudges.

\*Saying sorry is something we learn as kids, but how often do we really mean it? Forgiveness transforms hearts and lives. Participate in the Sacrament of Penance. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

**Bearing Wrongs Patiently**

Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.

Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience

**Praying For The Living and The Dead**

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care.

\*Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time

\*Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away

\*Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers

\*Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about.

Through prayer, entrust your cares and concerns for those around you to God. -USCCB Online