



Reflection on the Scriptures of the Day
By Deacon Vince Pisano
of Holy Cross Parish

Monday of 10th Week of Ordinary Time

Today more than ever we need to be reminded of the Beatitudes, the teaching of Jesus to his followers on the mountain top. Sometimes, we need to rethink the way we live in society and how we are called to live out these Beatitudes. They are not recommendations, but a way in which we are to live our lives as Christian brothers and sisters. Jesus spells it out loud and clear.

What does it take to be a Peacemaker? Do we find Peacemakers today amidst the violence and the hatred in our society today? If you answered yes, you may be right, but if you answered no, can you still be right? Being a Peacemaker means you take neither side but rather look for the good each side has to offer and then bring both sides together to see the common good.

We are not Peacemakers if we join up with one side and neglect the other. Each side has something to offer for the good of all. By joining one side we pit ourselves against the other and then we are being hateful or hurtful to the other because we fail to see the good in the other.

Hate is an immensely powerful word and it brings about violence. Hate is a disgusting emotion and has no legitimate stand in any God-fearing society. Hate only brings about violence and destruction, wars and insurrections.

My Dad had a very blunt and very real description of what hate is. I had a fight in school and came home with a black eye. I had to explain what happened and in the midst of explaining I used the word hate several times. When I was done talking Dad had the floor. He said, "Hate is a very strong word. To hate someone means you are willing to pick up dog poop and put it in your mouth and spit it into the face of the person you hate. Did the person you hate do that to you?"

How disgusting a thought! I could never do that and even to think of doing that turns my stomach. That is hate and hate is disgusting. Hate comes in all manner of life if we are willing to allow it. We can however, allow peace to abide by understanding and conciliation. By doing what Jesus asks of us and that is simple by being Peacemakers.

Jesus did not use the example my Dad did, but he did say, "Treat one another as I have treated you."

Can you imagine God hating us? No. But we do understand the love God has for us in that he sent His son into the world to die for our sinfulness. Do not let the sin be hate.