

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalm 71:1-6, 15-17
1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or 13:4-13
Luke 4:21-30

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 31, 2010

Word: God's love is glorified in the sonship of Jesus.

Theme: The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who love unconditionally. [Selflessness]

Promise: *"They will fight against you, but not prevail over you, for I am with you and will rescue you".* (Jer 1:19, NIV)

Reflection:

The Theme for this week is: **The sonship of Jesus is manifested upon those who love unconditionally.** By virtue of our baptism, we have become adopted sons and daughters of God, **"new creation"**, partakers of the divine nature, members of Christ and co-heir with Him, and a temple of the Holy Spirit," (Catechism of the Catholic Church No. 1265) . As the Father said during the Baptism of Jesus, **"You are my beloved Son, on You My favor rests,"** (Lk 3:22b), we too are beloved sons and daughters of God, our Father. We witness that we are truly sons and daughters of our Father in heaven by the love we bear for Him and for one another. His favor will rest on us if we love one another. St. John says: **"God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him."** (1 John 4:16).

Jesus showed us that He loved everyone unconditionally even when He was rejected in His own hometown. We too have experienced much rejection in our lives. If we reflect, we can recall the many instances when instead of receiving love, nurture, and affirmation, our earthly fathers and mothers, siblings, relatives, neighbors, teachers, classmates, friends, officemates, even our spouse, and children sometimes rejected our need for kindness, understanding, affirmation and love. As a result, some of us may have hardened our hearts because of these rejections. We get so hurt, we fear to show our love for others. Some of us have become over-sensitive we are affronted by the slightest perception of rejection, and in turn reject others. Some of us become passive and dare not show our feelings to others. So we carry this woundedness, this sense of rejection and lack of love, nurture, and affirmation into community life. Even when we experienced the love of our heavenly Father when we accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, many of us do foster close relationships with the members of the Body of Christ for fear of rejection. Some retain feelings of inadequacy and refuse to share their talents in the building up of the community. The fruit can be seen in our hesitation to share God's love with others through our community encounter programs.

But how do we respond to these perceptions of rejection? Some of those we accuse of having rejected us may not even be aware they have done so, or may never have intended to do so. We should respond first with forgiveness as Jesus forgave on the cross; ***“Father forgive them for they do not know what they do.”*** (Lk 23:34). Then we should respond with love. True Christian love as defined by St. Paul as being ***“patient, kind, not jealous, does not put on airs, is not snobbish; never rude, not self-seeking, not prone to anger; does not brood over injury, does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth; bears all things believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*** (1Cor 13:4-7). St. Paul advises us not to be angry, or engage in arguments for those real or imagined rejections, but instead lift our hands in prayer, (1Tim 2:8). Our Christian response is to forgive, bring those hurts to Jesus, and pray and bless those who reject us; so we can renew our relationships with them in the Body of Christ.

As we lift all wounds of rejection to Jesus, He will give us a new heart and a new understanding, and like Jeremiah, we can exercise our prophetic office ***“allowing us to shine in the newness of power of the Gospel in our family and social life, as well as to express patiently and courageously in the contradictions of the present age.”*** (Christifideles Laici p. 32). As we witness the love of God in our lives, and in and outside our community life, we need not be afraid of rejection, nor should we feel inadequate for we have the Promise of the Week: ***“They will fight against you, but not prevail over you, for I am with you and will rescue you,”*** (Jer 1:19).

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:

1. How have been responding to rejections in my life?
2. What hinders me from being a witness for Jesus Christ?

Next Week’s Daily Mass Reading Guide:

February 01, 2010 (Mon):	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20
February 02, 2010 (Tue):	Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or Lk 2:22-32
February 03, 2010 (Wed):	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6
February 04, 2010 (Thur):	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13
February 05, 2010 (Fri):	Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29
February 06, 2010 (Sat):	1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34

“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”