

THEME:

We are empowered to build God's Kingdom as we show compassion and care to the helpless and the marginalized.

PROMISE:

"The Lord hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds, he spurns not." (**Ps 69:34**)

WORD:

Deut 30:10-14/ Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37/ Col 1:15-20/ Lk 10:25-37

ORDERS:

• "Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live." (*Ps 69*)

DIRECTIONS:

- Actively support the Catholic Church advocacy in preservation of life and dignity.
- Be proactive in doing mission work.

Compassion of Christ

REFLECTION: To love God and to love our neighbor as you love yourself are the two mandates asked of us by the Lord to gain eternal life. This is very clear in this Sunday's Gospel reading as Jesus' response to the question how to inherit eternal life. He gives us this definitive or-

der and promise – "Do this and you will live," (Lk 10:28).

Every true Christian desires to inherit eternal life, to be in heaven and remain in God's presence forever. But we have to work for it by listening and acting on God's word as exemplified by Jesus. His love is unconditional, unchanging and knows no bounds, without bias or prejudice, and allembracing. Everyone is our neighbor and we show our love for God when we are able to respond with mercy and compassion to anyone we encounter who is in need. Pope John Paul II said, "no one is too poor not to be able to give, nor too rich he has nothing to receive." As Christ's disciples who are "the image of the invisible God," (Col 1: 15), we are enjoined and empowered to build His kingdom here on earth and be joined in Christ – "... in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the

church." (Col 1: 17b, 18a).

The parable of the Good Samaritan speaks of the many challenges and realities we face in our daily life. We are called to respond to situations that call for "agape" love. At times, we are like the priest or the Levite in the story who turned a blind eye to the injured man laying down on the road who obviously needed help. Why did these two characters not help? Were they afraid, perhaps they felt incapable? Or just like the beggars in our streets, maybe they thought they would be scammed? Or maybe, they just did not *Compassion-* See Page 2



Pope Francis: imitate Good Samaritan, doing good works to those in need

The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches us "indicates a way of life in which the center of gravity is not ourselves, but others, with their difficulties," Pope Francis said during his Jul 10, 2016 Sunday Angelus address . Reflecting on the day's Gospel reading (Lk. 10:25-37), the Pope told the crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square that "Jesus has reversed our way of looking at things. It is not up to us to try to categorize people, to see if they count as our neighbors. Rather, the decision to be, or not be a neighbor, depends on us." Pondering Christ's words, "Go

and do likewise," the Pope continued: Do good works, do not just say words that go to the wind Please, do. Act. And by the good works that we do with love and joy for others, our faith grows and bears fruit ... Am I 'the neighbor,' or do I simply just pass along? Or am I among those who select people according to their own pleasure? It's good to ask ourselves these questions and often because, in the end, we will be judged on the works of mercy. The Lord will say to us: But you, you remember that time on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho? That man was me half dead. Do you remember? That hungry child was me. Do you remember? The migrant whom many want to drive out, it was me. Those grandparents alone, abandoned in nursing homes, it was me. That sick person alone in the hospital, that no one goes to see, was me. Following the recitation of the Angelus, Pope Francis recalled that the day was Sea Sunday. "I encourage seafarers and fishermen in their work, often hard and risky, as well as chaplains and volunteers in their valuable service," he said. "May Mary, Star of the Sea, watch over you!"



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care because they refused to go out of their comfort zones and be inconvenienced? In our churches (particularly, in the Philippines), we see many mendicants and people selling their wares, or even leis of sampaguita flowers; do we just turn a blind eye and pass another way or worse shoo them away?

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus reminds and enjoins us to be like the Samaritan to be always ready to love, even the most unlovable amongst us, to show compassion, care, and empathy to the helpless and marginalized, to be generous of our time, talent and treasure, for that is the way to love God. We love Him with all our heart, with all our being (soul), with all our strength, and with all our mind (cf. Dt 30:10). Just as Jesus is compassionate and merciful, we too must show the same to others, not counting the cost. He assures us in this week's promise: "The Lord hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds, he spurns not," (Ps 69:34).



PRAYER:

Jesus, we need You and ask for Your grace to be able to be generous with our time, talent and resources. Please convict us and extend Your forgiveness and mercy on occasions we are remiss in extending what you require of us. Help us to be like You in the way we love and care for people we come in contact with, especially the helpless and marginalized. May we be Your instruments of blessings and grace for others. Amen.

Adapted from <u>www.bldworld.org</u>