



## Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time [C], July 25th, 2004

### Readings

Genesis 18:20-32  
Colossians 2:12-14  
Luke 11:1-13

### Dates to Remember

July 31: Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus  
August 1: Feast of Alphonsus Ligouri, founder of the Redemptorists

### Quotes

"Saint Ignatius of Loyola was convinced that God's Spirit works in just these subtle ways, that God's invitation is heard not only in moments of peak experience, but especially in human talents and needs, in specific opportunities and seemingly random requests. Ignatius' favorite image of God was as 'Director of Souls,' the One who works subtly in all things but especially in the roots of human experience and community to heal the world and bring it into union with God. Ignatius also believed that God's call always leads to struggle against the powerful forces of riches, honors and pride that oppress the world in every age. Those who enter that struggle will find that Jesus Christ is the companion who struggles alongside them to free the world from sin and oppression. Intimacy with Christ is not found on the sidelines, but by those who plunge into the struggle because that is where He is."

Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.

"We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers."

Rabbi Abraham Heschel

"Are human beings the only ones who weep and groan, or can this also be predicated of the holy mystery of God who cherishes the beloved world?"

Elizabeth Johnson, *She Who Is*, p. 246

"No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do."

Dorothy Day

"Genuine progress does not consist in wealth sought for personal comfort or for its own sake; rather it consists in an economic order designed for the welfare of the human person, where the daily bread that each person receives reflects the glow of love between sisters and brothers and the helping hand of God."

Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, #86

### Thoughts for your Consideration

Figuring out how to live the Christian life in our complex world can be quite an adventure. It takes time to figure out the route. It takes time to undertake the trip. Figuring out how to work for justice and peace is a journey and an adventure. To use the images of the gospel, it involves a lot of asking, seeking, and knocking. It is something that is worked out over time in the midst of ambiguity and struggle. It is supported by a community of faith, hope and love.

The Scriptures today remind us not to be afraid of the search for justice and peace. Don't be afraid of "bargaining with God" just as Abraham sought out justice for the people of his time. Don't be afraid of seeking out something of importance. Don't be afraid of making your needs known. Don't be afraid of making known the needs of the impoverished and the powerless. Don't be afraid of engaging the many important concerns of the world.

Abraham spoke to God. So can you. You can speak truth to power. We can all speak truth to power.

Searching is part of implementing Catholic Social Teaching. No one of us knows all the answers. No one of us can fix the whole world and its problems. However, all of us can and do have courage and faith that

comes from our relationship with our God. Great things are possible. As Pope John Paul II wrote a few years ago: "Rediscover today with joy and wonder that the world is no longer a slave to the inevitable. This world of ours can change."

### **Questions for Reflection in your Faith Sharing Group**

From the viewpoint of peace and justice, what are the biggest areas of frustration for you? What are the injustices that most strongly call out for change?

### **Actions - Links**

- Recently, Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement on the situation in Iraq (<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/iraqstatem.htm>).

*The war and occupation in Iraq have raised fundamental questions about the U.S. role in the world. These include the need to find ways other than preventive war to deal with challenges posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism; to abide by strict limits on the use of military force; and to strengthen the United Nations and respect for international law, including the Geneva Conventions. Our nation cannot accept a permissive interpretation of international law, the inevitability of civilian casualties or the abuse of human rights, or an over-reliance on military responses to the problem of global terrorism.*

- The Pax Christi USA Web Site has information and links ([http://www.paxchristiusa.org/news\\_events\\_more.asp?id=542](http://www.paxchristiusa.org/news_events_more.asp?id=542)) about the situation in Iraq.

### **Prayers**

God, sometimes I don't know what to seek.  
God, sometimes I find myself trying to seek everything.

God, I want justice for the impoverished.  
God, I want food for the hungry.  
God, I want hospitality for refugees.  
God, I want equality for all women.  
God, I want good education for all of your children.

God, I want an end to the war in Iraq.  
God, I want an end to terrorism.  
God, I want peace and nonviolence to be the way everywhere.

God, I want everyone to get good health care.  
God, I want an end to the death penalty.  
God, I want an end to all crime.  
God, I want justice in the marketplace.

God, I want universal respect for the environment.  
God, I want an end to rape and sexual abuse.  
God, I want an end to all that violates the sacredness of life.  
God, I want the courage to act for justice.

God, I want it all!

God, help us to do what is right.  
God, help us to be a community of justice and peace.  
God, help us all. Amen.

The Risen Christ signals the paths of hope  
along which we can advance together  
towards a world more just and mutually supportive,  
in which the blind egoism of the few

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will not prevail over the cries of pain of the many,  
reducing entire peoples  
to conditions of degrading misery.

May the message of life proclaimed by the angel  
near the stone rolled back from the tomb  
overturn the hardness of our hearts;  
may it lead to removing unjustified barriers  
and promote a fruitful exchange  
between peoples and cultures.

May the image of the new human person,  
shining on the face of Christ,  
cause everyone to acknowledge  
the inalienable value of human life;  
may it encourage effective responses  
to the increasingly felt demand  
for justice and equal opportunity  
in all areas of society;  
may it impel individuals and States  
to full respect for the essential and authentic rights  
rooted in the very nature of the human person.

URBI et ORBI Message of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, Easter Sunday, April 23, 2000

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-Fr. John Bucki, SJ, Editor and Writer

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