

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS SEVETH SUNDAY YEAR A 2023:

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES!

What a great challenge in our readings this weekend as we take a break of the ordinary Sundays of the year. Next Wednesday we begin the season of Lent.

The readings are calling us to ***love and forgive*** especially for those who hurt and offend us!

Moses in the first reading is **ordered by God** to tell the people **they must be holy, they must not hold grudge or hate anyone.** I wonder how sweet the world would be without **conflicts and hatred** as it is now! This is the call of today and all **must participate in establishing peace and harmony.**

The Gospel which is the most challenging for us as human beings and more as Christian, is the Lord's teaching on **love to our enemies. is this possible indeed!**

We may love our families, friends, Neighbour's, those in need and disadvantaged but to love enemies who have intentionally **hurt us, abused and used us, damaged our images and caused us pain** calls for extra mile indeed to forgive and forget.

The Lord addresses the call to **love and forgive not the desire to revenge or retaliate.** whenever we get to business of revenge, we won't reach anywhere except **striking and counters tricking thus making things worse.** He is teaching us to end the circle of **revenge and retaliation by pulling the string of forgiveness and love.** This will require a lot of courage, inner strength and maturity.

Hatred is very dangerous and will destroy us and our relationship with others. It is very expensive to hate someone, it cost you a lot indeed, we consume a lot of energy in hating more than other activities. Hatred creates a legacy of **poison, bitterness, hostility and resentment. we simple became prisoners and hostages of the person we hate. we give that person a lot of power and control power us, we are robed of peace of mind, lack of sleep and even the capacity to love. We must free ourselves from this slavery through love and forgiveness.**

Christ way is the better way though too demanding and not soft at all it calls for **strength, sacrifice and toughness but it is possible through the Grace of God.**

Christ is telling us to be *perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect*. Our starting to forgive as our Heavenly Father forgives us is a sign that we are **becoming like God we love. Forgiveness may not bring healing to others, it always heals us and set us free.**

Lets go for that today by *forgiving and loving.*

DO I NOT DESTROY MY ENEMIES WHEN MAKE THEM MY FRIENDS!(President Abraham Lincoln).