

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 15th SUNDAY OF YEAR-C-2025:

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR:

The book of Deutronomy is a series of sermons delivered by Mose to the people of Isarael as they journeyed to the Promised land. Our first reading today (Deut 30:10-14) Moses is very much aware he wont be with them as they enter the promised land, hence he is giving them **words of wisdom on how they must keep the commandments of Yahweh**. He is challenging them to make a choice between **good and evil, decision as to whether they will worship Yahweh or other gods, whether they will love Yahweh and NEIGHBOUR**. These will warrant them for either a **Blessing or curse**. These commandment are no longer written on the tablets, not in heaven, not behold the sea rather they are near **you, in your mouth, hearts**, it is upto you to put them in practice. This too applies to us in our present day as we journey to heaven. We must keep the commandments of God especially **love of God and neighbour**. The Jewish people in our lords time as Jewish and Christian people in our time knew that Love of neighbour is a requirement of the law of God. A neighbour has to be loved as deep as love of self, the issue was **who is my neighbour**.

The lawyer in todays gospel (Lk. 10:25-37) ask a very testing and explosive question, he wants to know who neighbour. The Rabbis and lawyers defined neighbour as fellow Jews. Jesus answers him with the parable of Good Samaritan. Jesus talks about this unnamed **person no nationality, political affiliation, religion or social status just a person** traveling on this risky road between Jerusalem and Jericho (incidentally today it is still very dangerous spot prone to

robbers and thieves).The unnamed fellow becomes a victim of the thieves and was badly beaten left to die.Along comes a priest Jewish orthodox,he **passes the opposite way so did a Levite,he too did the same**,then came a Samaritan,a man regarded by the other two as a half pagan,defiled and unorthodox,he stops and **attended the beaten dying man**.The lord asks the lawyer which of the three is the neighbour? the Samaritan the lawyer replies(**go and do the same!**)

This is addressed to us in our present day time,we are still asking who is our neighbour.we are tempted to think it is next door neighbors, person we know or our family members? We cannot risk extending the definition to include entire neighborhood due to security reason!

Jesus story of Good Samaritan gives us a name for all those people who **step forward and volunteer to help others and there are many around no doubt**.Most of us had the blessings of running into a Good Samaritan.one who helped to jump-start your car,gave direction or went out of their way to give an hand.We all depend on good samaritans.Our society would be so **cold,hard,difficult and dangerous without them**.The biggest issue in our time is fear of being sued after helping.We need Good Samaritan for our society to survive.This is a gospel **for everyone to read,to love God and neighbour**.we have a responsibility over all those who are in need.It is so easy for us when need crosses our path to go on vacation and pass the opposite way.The unnamed man on the road side reminds us **of the will of God,the way to holiness,the imitation of Christ discipleship**.That neighbour might be that **husband,wife,family the parish,these people,friends,strangers,undocumented persons,the demonstrators,homeless who need an hand**.These

are the people on the side of the road who need to be lifted, bandaged the wounds caused by lack of food, water, peace in the family, suffering, hatred, envy, molested, battered, psychologically and physically tortured. This is the test of Christian love. What we do with those in need on the side of the road? The need might be **compassion, our time, money, advice, to get back on the road thus preventing the person from being dependent on substances like drugs, alcoholism, the needs are many that cross our way.**

The Lord is telling us today just be a **neighbour to the person in need who crosses your path as he was to us.**