

PRAY: 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Week #4 Sunday Homily Helps

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 18:9-14)—October 25th and 26th

- **“O God, be merciful to me, a sinner” (Lk 18:13):**
The tax collector’s humble prayer contrasts sharply with the Pharisee’s self-righteousness. Humility, not pride, opens us to God’s mercy. Our response to violence in the world must begin with this posture of humility—acknowledging sin, asking forgiveness, and seeking conversion.
- **Violence begins with contempt (Lk 18:9):**
Jesus addresses this parable to “those who despised others.” Violence—whether war, gun violence, or domestic abuse—takes root when we see others as less than ourselves. The Consistent Ethic of Life insists we treat every person as a brother or sister created in God’s image.
- **God justifies the humble, not the violent (Lk 18:14):**
Whoever exalts himself will be humbled. Violence exalts power, domination, and control. Humility, in contrast, recognizes that every life is sacred and must be protected. The Church teaches: “Violence is a lie... it destroys what it claims to defend: the dignity, the life, the freedom of human beings” (Compendium, no. 496).
- **The Gospel of Life is a call to nonviolence:**
From nuclear weapons to domestic abuse, the Church is clear: “Violence, inside or outside the home, is never justified” (USCCB, *When I Call for Help*). Pope Francis reminds us that “war is the negation of all rights... every war leaves the world worse than it was before” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 257, 261).
- **Peacemaking as discipleship:**
To walk humbly with God means confronting violence in our homes, streets, and nations. Jesus blesses the peacemakers (Mt 5:9) and calls us to be healers and reconcilers. Respecting life means building communities of peace, hope, and justice.

Possible Preaching Hooks

- Contrast the Pharisee’s prayer of pride with modern excuses for violence (“It’s not my problem,” “They deserved it,” “That’s just how the world works”).
- Share a story of a survivor of domestic abuse or gun violence, connecting their cry for mercy to the tax collector’s prayer.
- Invite the community to consider what it would mean for us—families, parishes, even nations—to humble ourselves, acknowledge complicity in violence, and seek God’s mercy.

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Sample Petitions for Prayers of the Faithful

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That our nation will work sincerely to create peace everywhere in the world, avoiding aggression and embracing understanding. *We pray to the Lord...*

That, led by the example of Jesus the peacemaker, Christians will answer the call to build harmony throughout the world, especially where there is disorder and strife. *We pray to the Lord...*

That we will lead our children and young people in the ways of love and peace as Jesus has taught us, showing them examples of nonviolence and respect for all people. *We pray to the Lord...*

For peacemakers around the world, their courage and faith will be sustained, and many will follow their example. *We pray to the Lord...*