

Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 6, 2020

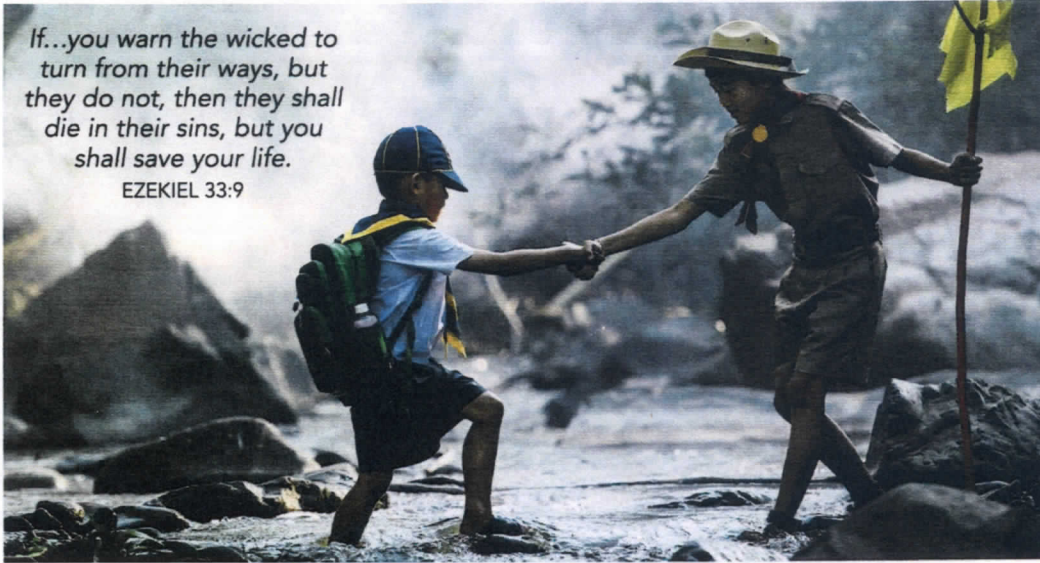
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ez 33:7-9

Rom 13:8-10

Mt 18:15-20

If...you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, but they do not, then they shall die in their sins, but you shall save your life.
EZEKIEL 33:9



It's None of My Business

This statement might sound like we are respecting the independence of others. It is none of our business how they live their lives, how they behave in society, how they worship God. We mind our own business; they mind theirs. After all, are we our brother's or sister's keepers?

Today's readings challenge this attitude. Ezekiel is told that he must proclaim God's will to the Israelites. If he reneges in his calling and someone dies in guilt, Ezekiel will be held responsible for that death. However, if the wicked refuse to hear this message, their death in guilt will be their own doing, for one must freely accept God's word. In the Gospel, Jesus outlines a way for his disciples to lead sinners back to the community. Both Ezekiel and the disciples have responsibilities to those who are not living faithfully. They both take steps to call them back. In this sense, they act as their brother's or sister's keeper. However,

they do not meddle in the other's business. The sinner must freely decide to return. God does not force repentance.

This might be a hard message. Who wants to step up and point out another's error in leaving the Church? However, if we are really concerned, we will do what we can to bring them back. We might not proclaim like the prophet or the disciples did. But the way we live our lives should show them the true value in being a faithful follower of Jesus.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *Is your life an example of the values of your faith?*
- ★ *Pray for those whom you love, who have left the practice of the faith.*

Dear Padre,

In the story of Noah, God destroyed most of the world. Did that really happen? How should we think about the world's end?

Most biblical scholars generally consider the Noah story to be a tale of God's new covenant with the people. Life here is temporary, but life with God is eternal. The story of the Flood was probably based on some historical event that was recounted in oral traditions for centuries before the story of Noah was written.

The National Geographic Society, in researching that region, discovered that the Mediterranean Sea broke through a natural dam more than 7,500 years ago, filling a freshwater lake with seawater and creating the Black Sea. This natural catastrophe could be the basis for the story of Noah and the Ark. Catastrophic world events such as war, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, or tornadoes remind us repeatedly how fragile and temporary our lives are.

The biblical truth of the Noah story and of Jesus' account of the end of the world tell us that God is our beginning and our end. The world will end, but God will not end. God's love for us will also never end. There is a spiritual transformation that will happen both at the end of lives on earth and at the end of time. We can be certain that, in the end, sin and death will be no more and God's love will reign forever.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR
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MARC BRUXELLE/SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

It is vital that the Church today go out to proclaim the Gospel to all, in all places, on all occasions, without delay, reluctance, or fear. We do so in obedience to the Lord's missionary mandate, certain of his presence among us until the end of the world.

—ADDRESS TO UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES, OCTOBER 5, 2017

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Calendar

Monday

SEPTEMBER 7

Weekday

1 Cor 5:1-8

Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 8

Nativity of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

or 1:18-23

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 9

St. Peter Claver,

Priest

1 Cor 7:25-31

Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 10

Weekday

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13

Lk 6:27-38

Friday

SEPTEMBER 11

Weekday

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27

Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 12

Weekday

1 Cor 10:14-22

Lk 6:43-49

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 13

Twenty-fourth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30-28:7

Rom 14:7-9

Mt 18:21-35

