



“Inclusive Discipleship”

Keeping the commandments of God, and living according to the Gospel of Jesus is not just a matter of personal holiness or of intellectual or spiritual values. If the gift of faith enables us to hear the Word of God and live by it, then we are expected to share that gift with real people – every day and in every circumstance.

Jesus shows us - by word and deed - just exactly how we are to live the "good news:" share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked... stop condemning and you will not be condemned... forgive and you will be forgiven... give, and gifts will be given to you."

If we listen carefully to the words of Jesus, it is very clear that he wants us to exclude no one from our love - not the beggar, the borrower, the adulteress, the leper, the widow, the poor, the orphan, the enemy. Each of us can make our own list of the "most unwanted", those whom we find most difficult to forgive, to feel sympathy for, to offer compassion to.

Living the Gospel is a constant challenge. It makes us re-examine our mental attitudes, our actions, our speech, and many of the prejudices we grow up with. Hopefully, as we prepare for the Season of Lent, we will continue to be more sensitive to the ways that we exclude certain people from the embrace of our affection. We will constantly try to resist deep-rooted suspicions we nurture against persons who, in some way, are "different" from us. Hopefully, we can

grow into becoming more fully authentic disciples.



Click here for [October 2019 for Extraordinary Missionary Month](#), and [here](#) for Sunday Reflections.