**Prayer Gathering for 15th Week of Ordinary Time**

Sign of the Cross +

Opening Prayer

**God of Love, Giver of the Commandments,**

**your law calls us to regard everyone we meet as a neighbor**

**and to affirm the worth of any and every person who crosses our path.**

**Remove from us any desire to make exceptions to your law of love**

**and fill our hearts with the desire to share with all the gifts you have given us.**

**We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

Reading

Moment for Silence

Gospel Passage

Sharing Questions

*“It is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts;*

*you have only to carry it out."*

**When someone lives what they believe & practices what they preach, it makes an impression. Who comes to mind as an example of someone who walks their talk?**

*"For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you.*

*It is not up in the sky…”*

**Many say that no one can live up to all the rules of Christianity – it’s too lofty. How do you feel about that? What part of what Jesus says is hardest for you to follow?**

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Discussion

*Scholar of the Law (wishing to justify himself): “And who is my neighbor?"  
Jesus: “Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"  
Scholar: "The one who treated him with mercy."  
Jesus: "Go and do likewise."*

**People are always looking for a loophole to a rule. Jesus uses the word “neighbor” so there is no confusion. What type of person do you most struggle to see as a neighbor?**

Prayer of the Faithful

That the Church will persevere in her quest to accompany all people on the journey of life – no matter who they are; we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all of us will come to recognize every living woman, man and child as our neighbor;

we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all leaders will cultivate a sense of brother and sisterhood among the citizens of our countries; we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For an end to the war, and the restoration of all that has been lost by innocent and peace-loving people; we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the lonely will encounter big-hearted people and find companionship along the path of life;

we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those experiencing disease, chronic pan, disability, or the diminishment that comes with aging may know rest and relief; we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That young people may remain safe and make wholesome choices during the weeks of summer;

we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our beloved dead… … … …and for everyone grieving because of loss...

we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the needs we share with God in silence… … … … … …we pray… **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Our Father

[Optional] Prayer for Spiritual Communion (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.**

**I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.**

**Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

Closing Prayer

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

Sign of the Cross +

**Prayer Gathering for 15th Week of Ordinary Time**

**READING 1**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy:

Moses said to the people:

*"If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God,  
and keep his commandments and statutes  
that are written in this book of the law,  
when you return to the LORD, your God,  
with all your heart and all your soul.  
  
"For this command that I enjoin on you today  
is not too mysterious and remote for you.  
It is not up in the sky,*

*that you should say,*

*'Who will go up in the sky to get it for us  
and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?'*

*Nor is it across the sea, that you should say,*

*'Who will cross the sea to get it for us  
and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?'*

*No, it is something very near to you,  
already in your mouths and in your hearts;*

*you have only to carry it out."*

The word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

*Deuteronomy, chapter 30*

**READING 2**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said,

*"Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

Jesus said to him,

*"What is written in the law? How do you read it?"*

He said in reply,

*"You shall love the Lord, your God,  
with all your heart,  
with all your being,  
with all your strength,  
and with all your mind,  
and your neighbor as yourself."*

He replied to him,

*"You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."*  
  
But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus,

*"And who is my neighbor?"*

Jesus replied,

*"A man fell victim to robbers  
as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho.  
They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.*

*A priest happened to be going down that road,  
but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.*

*Likewise a Levite came to the place,  
and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.*

*But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him  
was moved with compassion at the sight.  
He approached the victim,  
poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them.  
Then he lifted him up on his own animal,  
took him to an inn, and cared for him.*

*The next day he took out two silver coins  
and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction,*

*'Take care of him.  
If you spend more than what I have given you,  
I shall repay you on my way back.'*

*Which of these three, in your opinion,   
was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"*

He answered, *"The one who treated him with mercy."*

Jesus said to him, *"Go and do likewise."*

The Gospel of the Lord  *Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Luke, chapter 10*