

Daily Homily
Week Eleven in Ordinary Time
16 June 2020
[USCCB Daily Reading](#)

The Gospel from yesterday and today, the most challenging words of Jesus to his disciples and in turn to us. They tell us how to live difficultly and not easy ... how to live rich and not cheap. Turn the other cheek. Give and give some more. Walk and walk some more. Lend and lend some more.

And now today: Love your enemies. Difficult but powerful. I defer to Bishop Robert Barron today who expresses it so well. In addition to Deacon Bob preaching at the 8:30am Mass today, I will also take Bishop Barron's thoughts to prayer throughout this day as well. If you don't have access to his daily reflections, I highly recommend them. Here is his reflection, reproduced for you today:

Friends, today, in the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord commands us to love our enemies.

What is the test of love? Jesus couldn't be clearer in the discourse he delivers the night before he died. "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." If love is willing the good of the other as other, this has to be the fullest expression, the final word, of love.

There is another way to test love: the love of enemies, those who cannot or will not pay you back. This also takes place in the cross of Jesus. Jews, Romans, Pharisees, Sadducees, his own disciples—everyone betrays him, runs from him, denies him, actively arranges for his death. And yet these are the very people that he loves, the very people for whom he gives his life.

The final test is what Jesus does when he returns from the dead. To the very people that contributed to his demise he says, "Shalom." This is how we are loved; this is how we must love. Everything else is commentary.

Bishop Robert Barron
Word on Fire
Daily Gospel Reflections