

# Blessed Trinity Catholic Community + Spirit of Christ Mission

## Twelfth Summertime Sunday ~ A ~ June 21, 2026

Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35; Roman s 5: 12-15; Matthew 10:26-33

### Homily, Father Ed Hislop

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The “*whisperings of many*” surround us these days. Jeremiah, in his day, felt trapped by the quiet hatred he encounters from those he thought he knew and trusted. In the end his pleas, which we hear again throughout our land, are pleas for justice, for a revived hope and for a determined embrace of mercy. The psalmist sings a lament to God, a song for today, longing for acts for justice, mercy and a revived hope, a song seemingly unheard. The singer of such sentiments is ridiculed, called naïve and dangerous because the sins which break the backs of the oppressed are named. Today the psalmist could lament the ugly sin of racism, hatred, war, and violence.

Amid it all the psalmist sings of God’s love for the “outcast, stranger, the broken, despised, and lowly ones: *“For the Lord hears the poor...”*”

Here, and in so many stories of the scriptures, and in the words of Christ himself, Catholic social teaching finds its roots and beginning... a doctrine which reminds and even compels, that in all things our first concern as Catholics, and our living response, must always be to care for the poor, in whatever way they are oor...outcast, hated, profiled, victimized, sick or alone; our “work” as Catholics is to hear their cry and accompany them with a plea for justice, equality and hospitality in every place and in every circumstance.

Such concern and living response, as we know too well, will often bring ridicule, disdain and, as Jeremiah experienced, “*the whisperings of many...*” seeking to trap us in any misstep! The Gospel brings with it such challenges. It calls us, even insists, that justice and merciful care for all is not an option, but is fundamental to faith and to any genuine relationship with Christ. The Church, and any sincere believer, can never be silenced to a mere “whisper” amid oppression, war, violence, separation and racial hatred. The mandate to speak and act is placed upon all who follow Christ regardless of any “political” ramification it may have. Human rights can never be reduced to a mere political agenda. Followers of Christ can never be silent for fear of “politics,” even when, as is often

the case today, the “politics” of some has become their religion. That kind of “fear” can kill our soul, as the Gospel reminds us today.

Human rights, in every situation, are always about faith and a Gospel call to “*proclaim justice and conversion from the roof tops,*” a moral call to action based on the fundamental moral principles of the Gospel and our Catholic faith. A Catholic faith, which makes us responsible, as followers of Christ, to care for, to speak and act on behalf of and with, the poor, the lost, the sick, the refugee immigrant, people of color, different religious backgrounds, the different and the “shunned.” Really, we have no choice. Not to do so, as the Gospel tells us today, is to deny Christ before others. Such issues confront us this very day, when as a nation we remember the end of slavery and the long struggle to be freed from racial hatred—a hatred that still haunts us. We are challenged to apply our Catholic Social doctrine and Gospel values to the issues which face our country and most importantly people of color, the poor, the refugees, migrants, forgotten, and the sick among us.

For us these cannot be mere political issues, they are living moral issues of which we must, as Matthew reminds us, “*speak in the light and proclaim on the housetops.*” For Catholics, the “fundamental option” must always be for life, from its beginning to its natural end. “*The starting point for Catholic Social Teaching is the deep and inviolable conviction that every person, without exception, is made in the image and likeness of God.*” *The implication for us as Catholic people, in the midst of the current struggles of our time, is clear and compelling. There are no throwaway people, no second-class citizens,*” no “illegal person,” “and no disposable souls. *Every person—every person—is an unrepeatable and unique gift of God, binding us together as a human family, as sisters and brothers, each with inestimable worth and inalienable rights.*”

*Bishop Thomas, Pastoral Letter, “When Words Fall Short”* We are a Church that holds all life—all life—as sacred. That vision changes everything and everyone.

So we must search the quiet, whispering places in our own heart for any vestige of prejudice, racial judgement or desired separation, because *“Racism is an affront to the life of the community and a grave sin that calls out to the heavens for redress. ‘Racism arises when – either consciously or unconsciously – a person holds that his or her own race or ethnicity is superior, and therefore, judges persons of other races or ethnicities as inferior and unworthy of equal regard,’ Pope Francis justifying shunning others, keeping “them” out or sending “them” away as “not belonging here...”*. **Racism, like the Gospel reminds us today, is “denying Christ before others.”**

To hear the daring words of the Scripture during these days is both striking and challenging: *“What was concealed, must be revealed; What was secret,*

*must be made known; What was said in darkness, must be spoken in light; What was whispered, must be shouted.”* What has long been done, now is seen by all. What was whispered in the shadows is now shouted from the streets.

This is time to remember, embrace and proclaim from the housetops that every human being is valuable in the sight of God - no one is disposable.

This is a time to sing with hope and trust: *“Lord, in your great love, answer us...”* A time to believe that God does not forget but rescues the life of the poor from the wicked.

There is light, even in the darkness. There is hope even in suffering. THE “WHISPERINGS OF MANY” STILL SURROUND US,” BUT “ALL THAT IS HIDDEN WILL BE MADE CLEAR.”

