

01-19-25 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Love builds communities. It is more than a sentimental feeling. The love that does what is good to the neighbor is a love incarnate in the form of justice and right relations; it is a love that establishes egalitarian practices; It is a love that subverts covetousness and greed.”

Eleazar S. Fernandez



Romans 13:8-10

Questions for Reflection —

- How do you define what it means for you to be in community with others? Are there people with whom you have avoided entering into community? What would help you to enter into relationships with people towards whom you do not usually gravitate? What people might not feel a sense of belonging to any communities? How might you offer hospitality and welcome to someone who is overlooked or marginalized in the communities of which you are part?

- Where in society in general or specifically in the community/communities of which you are a part do you see human dignity being denied? How does your faith call you to respond? What can you do to uphold the rights of others who suffer injustice and inequality? What enables your faith to become active in the world, sensitive and responding to the needs of those around you? What is the balance in your life between acts of piety (devotional practices) and acts of mercy (outward actions taken for the sake of others)?

- What identities and cultural heritages have shaped who you are? What does it mean for us as a congregation to be one body, one family in Christ, and yet embrace and affirm the uniqueness of each person? What does unity look like in the face of diversity and difference? What are the challenges in building unity in a diverse congregation? What practices might help to maintain unity in the face of potential disagreements with siblings in Christ?

Daily Household Prayer

We ask you, O Lord, for the gifts of your Spirit. Enable us to penetrate the depth of the whole truth, and grant that we may share with others the goods you have put at our disposal. Teach us to overcome divisions. Send us your Spirit to lead to full unity all your children in full charity, in obedience to your will; through Christ our Lord. Amen.