

Fr. Simon Sez

Priest Substitute this Week: I am gone skiing at Terry Peak this weekend through Monday, February 20, 2023. We welcome Fr. Don Glover, MM, substituting for me. He is a senior priest who lives in Frederick, SD. I will be available for emergency and urgent calls.

Statue of Mary Untouched in Earthquake that Demolished Cathedral in Turkey: See this Catholic News Agency article dated February 7, 2023. You can sign up to receive a free daily email from their website www.catholicnewsagency.com.



Set Ablaze Parish Restructuring Priest Assignments: We should be learning about the many changes in priest assignments by the end of March and announced in the April edition of *The Bishop's Bulletin*. Expect many changes due to having fewer pastors and more associate priests. We may or may not have changes in our parishes and Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Pierre. Whoever becomes the pastor in Pierre will be the pastor for our two parishes, as well as St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Hoven, along with one associate priest.

A Prayer for Vocations:

O Father, you desire all of us to be happy. Stir the grace of the Holy Spirit in men searching out their vocation to the priesthood. Grant to them the willingness and generosity to give of themselves, their lives, their time and their talents to the service of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord and Savior, and to His Holy Church.

May more men and women be inspired to consider service as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters to bring the truths of our Catholic faith to all others. May we all strive to know, love and serve You all our days.



~ Amen

Holy as God: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time



Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18

Psalms 103:1–4, 8, 10, 12–13

1 Corinthians 3:16–23

Matthew 5:38–48

We are called to the holiness of God. That is the extraordinary claim made in both the First Reading and the Gospel this Sunday.

Yet how is it possible that we can be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect?

Jesus explains that we must be imitators of God as His beloved children (Ephesians 5:1–2).

As God does, we must love without limit—with a love that does not distinguish between friend and foe, overcoming evil with good (see Romans 12:21).

Jesus Himself, in His Passion and death, gave us the perfect example of the love that we are called to.

He offered no resistance to the evil — even though He could have commanded twelve legions of angels to fight alongside Him. He offered His face to be struck and spit upon. He allowed His garments to be stripped from Him. He marched as His enemies compelled Him to the Place of the Skull. On the Cross, He prayed for those who persecuted Him (see Matthew 26:53–54, 67; 27:28, 32; Luke 23:34).

In all this, He showed Himself to be the perfect Son of God. By His grace, and through our imitation of Him, He promises that we, too, can become children of our heavenly Father.

God does not deal with us as we deserve, as we sing in this week's Psalm. He loves us with a Father's love. He saves us from ruin. He forgives our transgressions.

He loved us even when we had made ourselves His enemies through our sinfulness. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (see Romans 5:8).

We have been bought with the price of the blood of God's only Son (see 1 Corinthians 6:20). We belong to Christ now, as St. Paul says in this week's Epistle. By our baptism, we have been made temples of His Holy Spirit.

And we have been saved to share in His holiness and perfection. So let us glorify Him by our lives lived in His service, loving as He loves.

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