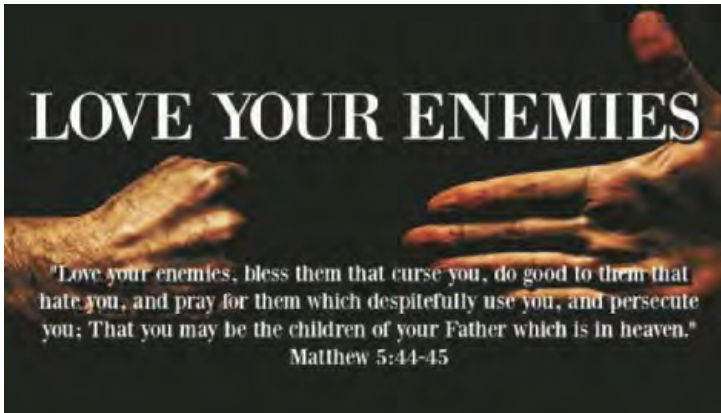


FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“For the measure with which you measure will in turn be measured out to you.”

The words of the Gospel are always surprising:

Love your enemies.

Do good to those who hate you.

Bless those who curse you.

Pray for those who mistreat you.

How to make any sense of this? These words fly in the face of our gut reactions. We live in an anti-bullying world, a haven of safe spaces and equality, where no discrimination or unkindness is tolerated.

The Gospel is not a set of rules for us to follow. The Gospel presents the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and describes who he is.

He is the one who loves his enemy, blesses those who mistreat him, and prays for those who persecute him.

The Gospel only becomes part of our life when we acknowledge that we are the enemies of Christ, we are the ones who have mistreated and persecuted him.

When did we do that? Simple, every time we held a grudge against another, or harbored resentment, or acted without charity. St. Peter says we are the ones who have crucified Christ.

A little extreme? A bit exaggerated?

Jesus Christ doesn't think so. On the contrary, he knows us for who we are, and loves us anyway. It is only in experiencing and receiving His love for us, exactly the way we are, that we are able to love others, exactly the way they are! Then, and only then, will the measure we have received be the measure we use for others.

Fr. Sean