

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“He spilled the coins of the money changers...and drove them out of the Temple...”

Our church does not have a currency exchange. There is no Travelex in the lobby, there is no digital display showing the current exchange rates between the dollar and other currencies.

When the collection basket goes around today, most of us will drop in US Dollars. No one would think of dropping in a Euro, or a Yen, or a Pound.

The Temple of Jesus' day, however, did have a currency exchange, a version of our Travelex; those who performed this service were simply called 'money changers'.

Pilgrims visiting the temple had to exchange their currency for the only money accepted in the Temple coffers: the temple-minted shekel.

Wherever money is exchanged, there is always a commission, a price to pay. That price can be fair, or it can be daylight robbery.

Maybe we won't actually exchange money today, but there is a money changer who wants to be alive and well in each one of us. There are countless transactions, (not necessarily monetary) that go on each day in our dealings with others. Our use of time, the friends we choose, the opinions we form, and the conversations we have; our relationships can become virtual business transactions: 'I give you this; you owe me that,' 'I do this for you; so what's in it for me?' The money changer always wants to come out on top, sometimes no matter what the cost.

Let us not be shocked if Jesus enters our temple today and upsets a few tables. If, and only if this happens, will the company we keep; the time we spend; the opinions we form; the thoughts we entertain, be not based on self interest, but on a true desire for the good of others. No matter what the cost to us.

Fr. Sean