

JUNE 10, 2021
Thursday of the 10th Week in OT
Matthew 5: 20-26

“MAY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINE IN OUR HEARTS.”

“St. Elizabeth of Hungary lived in the 13th century. She was the daughter of the king of Hungary. After her family fully grown, she embarked on a life of personal poverty and devoted her time to serving the sick. A letter written by one of her contemporaries says, "When she came from private prayer, religious men and women often saw her face shine marvellously." What these people saw in the face of the saint was a kind of visible manifestation of the light that Paul talks about in today's reading, which God "has shone in our hearts." It is this light that we must radiate to others as St. Elizabeth did through her life of poverty and service.”¹

St. Paul in our First Reading reminds us of the responsibility that we must take: to be the mirror of Christ for others and be the image of God, as we do not proclaim ourselves but Jesus as Lord and ourselves as His slaves for Jesus' sake. We have the responsibility to be the image of Jesus to others by serving them, showing them our compassion, mercy and forgiveness. The light of Christ must radiate to our brothers and sisters. This is also the message of our gospel in the image of loving one another. “Christ tells us that our practice of love should go farther than that of the Scribes and Pharisees. All laws and the whole discipleship are based on love and creating a climate of love in which Christians do not only not kill in acts of violence but not even damage relationships in words and thoughts. Love at its deepest is shown in forgiveness without conditions, even if the one wrong is the other person!”²

¹ www.stories4homilies.co

² *ibid*

My brothers and sisters, unworthy I am, I try to respond to His call to be of service to Him and to my brothers and sisters. He gave me the graces that I needed to continue be an instrument of His love and mercy to others. With all the problems and challenges the Church and priesthood experiencing today, my strength, my guiding principle, is the words of Jesus from John 15:16: "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last."³ He will never abandon us, He will always be with us, whatever happened. Sufferings, difficulties and sickness are nothing compare to the love of Jesus.

Let us therefore, pray for one another who are generously responding to His call of discipleship and His light may shine in us, and radiate it to others. At the same time, we thank the Lord for giving us an opportunity to serve Him through our brothers and sisters and sending us people who inspires, motivates and encourages us to do the best that we can, and to bear fruit abundantly. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, intercedes for us. Amen.

³ John 15:16 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society