

Jesus lived a very dangerous life and He invites us to do the same. During the 'Sermon on the Mount' He urged us, even commanded us "...love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you..." Is this even possible?

Today's Gospel about the Good Samaritan is one of Jesus most loved and repeated parables. It captures the heart of Jesus' message. It's natural for us to try and find ourselves in this story.

When I drive down Sherman St. from North Lake Ave. to Lexington Ave. in the morning during the week I become quite disturbed. There are people all along the sidewalks and even in the street in terrible condition – drugs, alcohol, prostitutes. The area around the former Our Lady of Angels Church is especially bad. There are other areas in our neighborhood that are in rough condition. Are these the people Jesus is talking about? Are these my brothers and sisters? What do I am 85 year old priest do about it? Jesus words come to me, "Whatever you do to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you do to me." I have lots of hopes and dreams but for the most part they are just that, dreams, no action.

I had an idea not long ago to open the back part of the church once a week and offer breakfast to the hungry but that would be a large undertaking. Could we do it? It could well develop into much more.

We live in a neighborhood where more and more Muslims are living. According to the words of Jesus they too are our neighbors. Jesus calls us to love them as sisters and brothers.

Sometimes there is someone in our family who is an outcast, maybe someone who hurt you deeply. What are we called to do about them? Forgive! Love!

In a few moments we will be receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. He will inspire us and strengthen us to be Good Samaritans.

Mother Teresa said, "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, I must feed him. This is a sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus'.

I am grateful for the small food pantry outside near our side door. Thank you for the food you bring to fill it up for our neighbors.

Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, "Go and like wise"

Please share your thoughts with me and one another.