

Like a Gentile or a Tax Collector



By
ANN M. GARRIDO

As Someone who works in the field of conflict management, I like to think that all situations can be worked out if we go about it in a skilled manner. If we use the right words. Ask the right kinds of questions. It's embarrassing to admit that even the best "tools" in my "conflict belt" sometimes still effect little change. Today's gospel can be consoling in a strange way. It acknowledges that even when we use all the tools we have on hand to heal a relationship, it doesn't always work out. Some-

times, we may need to become strangers to one another, at least for a while—like a Jew to a Gentile or a tax collector. Of course, when Jesus says "treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector," it is important to consider how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors. He healed the centurion's servant. He ate in Zacchaeus' house. Jesus did not see Gentiles and tax collectors as enemies and did not treat them as such. Rather, Jesus understood Gentiles and tax collectors as

those with whom he might start a relationship should the opportunity present itself. The past cannot be rewritten, but perhaps a different kind of future is still possible.

Is there a relationship in your life that feels beyond healing at this point and from which perhaps you need some distance? Is it still possible to treat the other person with the kindness Jesus showed toward Gentiles and tax collectors?

Could I improve how I handle conflict with others?

***ST. BENEDICT "The Painted Church" 84-5140 Painted Church Rd.**

Captain Cook, HI 96704 Phone 808-328-2227

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**Mass : ST. BENEDICT Saturday 4:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m. Capt. Cook
Tuesday-Friday 7 am**

***ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 81-6410A Hawaii Belt Rd. Kealahou**

Saturday 6:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Confession: Sat. 10am-12pm at St. Benedict Church

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St. Benedict QR Code for giving online



**Mass of Thanksgiving
Bishop Castori
SEPT. 23 6:00PM
St. Michael the Archangel**

I had not been to confession for decades until recently, and I've probably committed mortal sins I can't remember. I want God's forgiveness, but I'm unsure how to get it at this time. You ask if God has forgiven you for sins that you may have committed in the past but that you don't remember now. You say you have been to confession recently. A mortal sin has three criteria: it is seriously wrong; the person knows it is seriously wrong; and the person is free to commit the sin or not. In the case you are describing, you don't even remember what the mortal sin might have been, or even if there was one. So, no, you don't have to confess something you don't remember. Also, you have already gone to confession recently, and you sound truly repentant for your past sins. You do not indicate that you were deliberately trying to hide any sins from the priest. So, you have already been forgiven, not only for the sins you remembered but also for those you don't remember. That is why usually we will say something like "for these sins and for those I may have forgotten" when we go to confession. The bottom line is that confession is for you to experience God's mercy. It is not to test how good your memory is. Be at peace. God loves you and particularly wants you to experience the peace that comes from his forgiveness. ● Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Share Sunday and Hawaiian Mass are Next Weekend at 8:00 Mass! Thank you for your continued support of the **St. Benedict Food Pantry**. It is time to replenish the shelves for Friday, September 11th!

**Stewardship of Treasure
Mahalo for your generosity!
August 29-30, 2026**

Collection	\$ 2096.00
Catholic Univ.	22.00
Assumption	5.00
Food Pantry	55.00
Maintenance	<u>245.00</u>
Total	\$2423.00

St. Benedict 64 adults 7 Keiki

St. John 69 adults 13 Keiki

thepaintedchurchhawaii.org

**Our website also has our QR
Code for giving.**

**You are always
welcome to
continue giving
by cash or check.**

Mass Intentions

September 5-6, 2026

***Saturday**

4:00 PM +Leodigaria Mascarina

6:00 Gail Lucksic, health

6:00 All people of the Parish

***Sunday**

**8:00 Someone special, special
intention**

**10:00 Magsino & Tolentino
families, special int.**

Weekdays September 8-11, 2026

Tues. +Charles Cornwell

Wed. Payton Collins, health

**Thurs. Jarolsaw, Halina, Matthew
Gabriel, Aleksaunder, sp Int**

Friday +Dr. Kathryn Altonji

For our 'Ohana who are ill

Patsy Sabarre

Jan Neumann

Dolores Sedlack (Lisa K.'s
Mom)

*Mahina Kaupiko

*Kamala Galletes

*Miriam Janczak

*Reggie Lee

Cindy Pangan

*Linda Alcain

*Terrance Terada

*Deacon Craig Camello

*Pam Shultise

*Merla Kline

*Paul Ruskey

*Carla Vonderahe

*Joevelyn Delas Reyes

*Gwen Menchaca

*Deb Reed

*Gloria Grapa

*William Anderson

*Johnny Koene

* Friends & Family

AMEN

**September 13 & 27th
Religious Education**

**St. John Hall
after 10:00 Mass.**

**Director
Angie Tabieros**

**A Short Choir Practice
every Wed. 5:30
St. John Church.**

**Music Director
Ariel Hadap**

**St. Benedict Food Pantry
This month 9-11-26
**Kenneth & Gloria Ciriako
Tom McLoughlin****

West Hawaii Vicariate meeting is on **Tuesday, September 8** from **10am to 12pm** in the Grace Parish Center. Lunch will be provided. Please advise if you have any dietary restrictions.

Saturday, September 19 – Presentation by Fr. Alfred Guerre **9am to 2pm** Vatican II Documents & Synodality
St. Michael's Grace Parish Center

September 6, 2026 • 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

A Two-Way Challenge

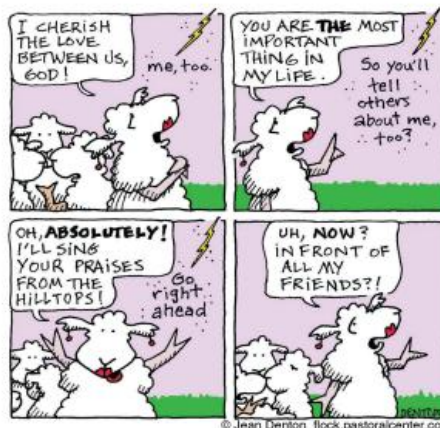
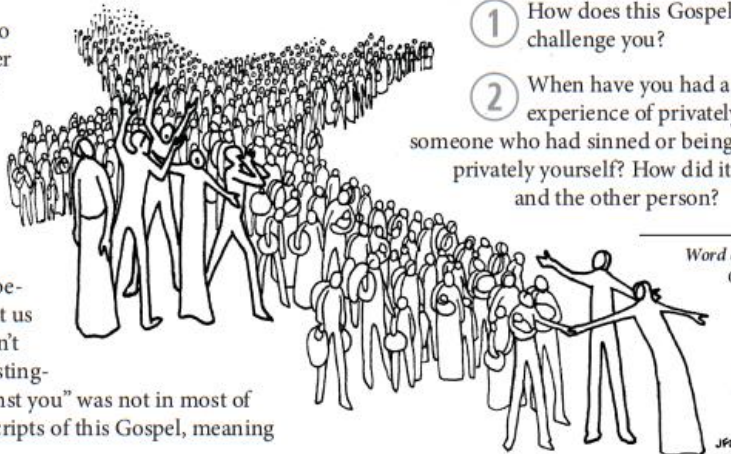
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Ezekiel 33:7-9 • The prophet a watchman
- ▶ Romans 13:8-10 • Love fulfills the Law
- ▶ Matthew 18:15-20 • Fraternal correction

The first reading and the Gospel reading today both address the responsibility of believers to call out and name injustice and sinfulness when they see it. In the Old Testament reading, God tells the prophet, Ezekiel, that he must speak out to dissuade wicked people from doing harm, or he will be responsible for their deaths. Likewise, Jesus gives his disciples instructions for confronting those who have done wrong.

Jesus' teaching in the Gospel reading today about reconciling someone who has sinned is a challenge for two kinds of Christians. First, it is a challenge to those in the Church community who judge others publicly—boldly proclaiming in print, from the pulpit, or in the media. It is often easier for an accuser to go public with an accusation than address the matter privately and with more humility and sensitivity first. Jesus is asking such accusers to do the hard work of personal conversation first, which may have the effect of helping the accuser to grow in understanding and acceptance of the "sinner." (Of course, Jesus isn't asking people to put themselves in danger to do so, for example, asking a victim to approach her rapist in private.)

Jesus' words are also a challenge for other Christians who are too hesitant or timid to call out sinfulness and injustice when they see it. Sometimes we let injustice continue because it doesn't hurt us directly—the sin isn't "against" us. Interestingly, the phrase "against you" was not in most of the ancient manuscripts of this Gospel, meaning



"Whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Sheepish Question:

What is it about the good news of Jesus that I'm keeping from people I love? Why?

it was probably added later. So Jesus was calling on his disciples to privately point out their brother's sin (before escalating to a broader audience), regardless of whether they were directly impacted. Jesus is asking for courage here to stand up for any victim who is hurt by another's behavior. When a white person confronts another white person privately for a racist comment, that is the first step toward growth and reconciliation.

Questions of the Week

- 1 How does this Gospel reading most challenge you?
- 2 When have you had a growthful experience of privately confronting someone who had sinned or being confronted privately yourself? How did it change you and the other person?

Word of the Week •
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Ora et labora – Pray and work

"Idleness," writes St. Benedict in **The Rule**, "is an enemy of the soul; That is why the brothers have to devote themselves to manual work, in some hours, in others, to reading books containing the word of God." Prayer and work are not in opposition, but establish a symbiotic relationship. Without prayer, it is not possible to encounter God.

The monastic life, however, defined by Benedict as "a school of the service of the Lord," cannot be without concrete commitment. Work is an extension of prayer.

DEAR VISITOR TO ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC CHURCH, ALOHA!

THANK YOU FOR VISITING US TODAY! WE WISH YOU A BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCE AND THAT YOU LEAVE ST. BENEDICT, TODAY, REFRESHED IN SPIRIT AND WITH PEACE IN YOUR HEART! SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF THE CHURCH, IT HAS BEEN A CATHOLIC TRADITION TO OFFER A "MASS INTENTION". THIS IS A WAY OF REMEMBERING A PERSON AND LIFTING THEM UP IN PRAYER. YOU MAY ASK THE GREETER FOR A FORM AND ENVELOPE.

Stewardship

Today's readings remind us of the importance of our relationships. God created us to live in communion with Him and with one another. Our families, neighbors, friends, and parish community need us, and we need them as we grow together in holiness.

In today's Second Reading, St. Paul gives us a simple but profound guide for living in relationship with others. Echoing the words of Christ, he writes, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love is the guiding principle that helps us become good stewards of every relationship God has entrusted to us.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shows us what that love looks like, even when relationships become strained. He tells His disciples, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother."

Rather than ignoring conflict or allowing resentment to grow, Jesus teaches us to approach one another with humility, charity, and a sincere desire for reconciliation. This is faithful stewardship of our relationships.

He also reminds us of the strength found in Christian community: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

God never intended us to journey to heaven alone. May we care for the relationships He has entrusted to us and help one another grow as faithful disciples.

Make me
a channel
of your Peace

New in the
Gift Shop:
A Rosary
Case.

Monday

September 7

Weekday

1 Cor 5:1-8

Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday

September 8

*The Nativity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

Mt 5:1-4a or

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
or 1:18-23

Wednesday

September 9

St. Peter Claver, Priest

1 Cor 7:25-31

Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

September 10

Weekday

1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13

Lk 6:27-38

Friday

September 11

Weekday

1 Cor 9:16-19,
22b-27

Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

September 12

Weekday

1 Cor 10:14-22

Lk 6:43-49

Sunday

September 13

*Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Sir 27:30-28:7

Rom 14:7-9

Mt 18:21-35

