



27 September 2009

Dear Parishioners,

I attended a series of conferences on Old Testament Prophets some years ago at the Monastery. They were conducted by a Professor of Scripture from the University of Portland.

What I remember her saying is that the task of the Torah—that is, the Law—is to teach a person to “live in right relationship with God”. So often, the people we read about in the Scriptures would lose sight of this. They would forget. So, the prophets were sent by God to open their eyes and urge them to remember. This was never easy. Often, they met with resistance. Sometimes, they were put to death. They just didn’t want to hear what was being said, nor admit what needed to change. They tended to live in the blindness of denial, not unlike ourselves.

In the eyes of the prophets, living in “right relationship with God” was carried out by living in right relationship with one another. The work of Torah is the work of social justice according to the prophets. Jesus, too, stands in this prophetic tradition when he opens the scroll and reads the prophecy of Isaiah in the synagogue where he was raised. And he helps us see what living in right relationship entails when he says:

For I was hungry and you gave me food (Mtt. 25:35)

This weekend we hear Joe Hastings from Catholic Community Services speak at all the Masses and participate with us during G.I.F.T. in Jubilee Hall after the 9:30 A.M. Mass. I warmly welcome Joe and thank him for his presence among us. He speaks about the scourge of global hunger which is the result of injustice, greed and the unwillingness to live in right relationship with one another. When there is hunger in a world that has so much and more than enough for all, then something is wrong, morally wrong.

May we open our eyes to the plight of the hungry: those deprived of what is their right and see something of ourselves, something of God.

Father Tim Clark

Pastor