



## TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

June 9, 2024

*St. James Catholic Church*  
*3909 Harrison \* Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

### *Reflection from Mimi Harman*

In May, I went home to California to visit family and pick our son up from college. To a woman in her fifties, “home” is an interesting term which has changed and evolved throughout the years. To be honest, as a young person I was eager to leave home. My parents were divorcing and life there was tumultuous and painful. Eventually settling down here in KC, I found a great community to call home. My original family unit of five siblings, however, remains in a divided state politically and emotionally. There’s a lot of hurt feelings and blaming still going on. It reminds me of the first reading in Genesis. Instead of admitting their own fault and need for God, Adam and Eve immediately blame another, throwing humanity into a vicious cycle of scapegoating. This act of not taking responsibility for their own feelings and actions, separates them from God and others. They “hide” and cover themselves, creating a division that takes centuries to heal.

When we think of “home” it may bring up warm, safe feelings or it may evoke the opposite. In any case, for many of us it’s complicated. In the Gospel today, Jesus returned home to crowds that welcomed him. His biological family, however, did not! I imagine that even for Jesus, that was difficult to endure, but of course he leaves us with the way to find peace and true family. “For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mk 3:35) And what is the “will of God”? That we all may be one, as he prayed for in the Gospel of John. An end to the blaming and scapegoating that separates us. Sounds simple right...unity through love? The wars in the Middle east, Ukraine and Africa as well as the divisions in our own families tell us otherwise.

Sometimes I wonder if the first human had been honest and said, “Listen God, when the serpent began comparing me to you and telling me that you lied, I started to doubt my own value and I was afraid that you had kept something from me because I was unworthy so I became mad and envious and wanted to protect myself so I disobeyed you”. Would we be in a different place if that was the first response? Yet the painful truth is that it takes hard work to admit our true feelings and real nothingness without God. It takes a humbling tragedy or years of therapy to learn that we are not in control and in fact we have created much of our own unhappiness. In the second reading, St Paul helps us find truth by reminding us to look not to what is seen (division and separation) but to what is unseen (human and divine connection); for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal (love) (2Cor5:1). When we finally stop hiding and uncover our true self we fall into the hands of God and realize that we have never been separated from God’s Love, we have always been one!

When we meet God in this place, we see Jesus as our true brother and know, too, that although political, racial, and religious differences exist, every human being is our brother and sister and mother.