



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 14, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."

Reflection from Susie Hope Roling

At the heart of today's readings is the call to be good Samaritans in our modern world. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus challenges us to extend compassion and aid to those in need, regardless of social barriers or prejudices. This narrative resonates deeply with issues of social justice, particularly concerning the marginalized and those affected by incarceration.

In many societies, the prison system reflects deep-seated inequalities and systemic injustices. Often, those who are imprisoned come from disadvantaged backgrounds, facing economic hardships, lack of educational opportunities, and discrimination. Moreover, the experience of incarceration itself can perpetuate cycles of poverty and exclusion, affecting families and communities for generations.

As followers of Christ, we are called to confront these challenges with a spirit of solidarity and reconciliation. This means advocating for fair treatment of those incarcerated, supporting reentry programs, and addressing the root causes that lead individuals into the criminal justice system. It also means challenging ourselves to see humanity in every person, including those who have committed harmful acts against society.

The readings remind us that true discipleship requires us to go beyond mere words and embrace concrete actions of love and mercy. It challenges us to advocate for a society where justice is tempered with compassion, where healing and restoration are prioritized over punishment alone.

On this Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, let us reflect on our role as instruments of God's peace and justice in the world. Let us pray for the strength to be like the Good Samaritan, showing mercy and solidarity with those who are marginalized or imprisoned. May our actions and prayers contribute to building a more just and compassionate society, reflecting the Kingdom of God here on earth.