

To Win Them Back: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9 | Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10 | Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20



As Ezekiel is appointed watchman over the house of Israel in today's first Reading, so Jesus in the Gospel today establishes His disciples as guardians of the new Israel of God, the Church (see Galatians 6:16).

He also puts in place procedures for dealing with sin and breaches of the faith, building on laws of discipline prescribed by Moses for Israel (see Leviticus 19:17-20; Deuteronomy 19:13). The heads of the new Israel, however, receive extraordinary powers – similar to those given to Peter (see Matthew 16:19). They have the power to bind and loose, to forgive sins and to reconcile sinners in His name (see John 20:21-23).

But the powers He gives the apostles and their successors depends on their communion with Him. As Ezekiel is only to teach what he hears God saying, the disciples are to gather in His name and to pray and seek the will of our heavenly Father.

But today's readings are more than a lesson in Church order. They also suggest how we're to deal with those who trespass against us, a theme that we'll hear in next week's readings as well.

Notice that both the Gospel and the First Reading presume that believers have a duty to correct sinners in our midst. Ezekiel is even told that he will be held accountable for their souls if he fails to speak out and try to correct them.

This is the love that Paul in today's Epistle says we owe to our neighbors. To love our neighbors as ourselves is to be vitally concerned for their salvation. We must make every effort, as Jesus says, to win our brothers and sisters back, to turn them from the false paths.

We should never correct out of anger, or a desire to punish. Instead our message must be that of today's Psalm – urging sinner to hear God's voice, not to harden their hearts, and to remember that He is the one who made us, and the rock of our salvation.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
September 9th – 17th, 2017

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Sept. 9th	Sunday Vigil Jerry and Ofelia Roy – Anniversary Thanksgiving
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sept. 10th	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Deceased Members of D’Souza and Sequeira families John Birinyi – RIP – by Barbara
Monday	Sept. 11th	NO MASS
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 12th	Most Holy Name of Mary Ronald Boucher – RIP – by the MacDonald family
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 13th	Saint John Chrysostom Stanley Tait – RIP – by the Piper family
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 14th	EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS For Souls in Purgatory – by Phil
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Sept. 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows Kornel Piacek – RIP – by the family
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Sept. 16th	Sunday Vigil Joao J. De Ponte and Virgilio Pereira – RIP – by Maria
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sept. 17th	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Maria Aninha Pereira – RIP – by Victor, Valda and family Thanksgiving by the Crodua family

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

Collection:
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THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: September 14th



The one symbol most often identified with Jesus and his Church is the cross. [September 14th] we celebrate The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast traces its beginning to Jerusalem and the dedication of the church built on the site of Mount Calvary in 335. But the meaning of the cross is deeper than any city, any celebration, any building. The cross is a sign of suffering, a sign of human cruelty at its worst. But by Christ's love shown in the

Paschal Mystery, **it has become the sign of triumph and victory, the sign of God, who is love itself.**

Believers have always looked to the cross in times of suffering. People in concentration camps, in prisons, in hospitals, in any place of suffering and loneliness, have been known to draw, trace, or form crosses and focus their eyes and hearts on them. The cross does not explain pain and misery. It does not give us any easy answers. But it does help us to see our lives united with Christ's.

[...] Let us look to the cross often. Let us make the Sign of the Cross and realize we bring our whole selves to God—our minds, souls, bodies, wills, thoughts, hearts [joys, sorrows, and sufferings] —everything we are and will become.

O cross, you are the glorious sign of our victory. Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus. (from *Saints and Feast Days*, by Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio)

OUR LADY OF SORROWS: September 15th



Formerly known as the 'Seven Sorrows of Mary,' this feast was instituted in 1668 by the Servite Friars. In 1814, Pius VII extended the feast to the whole Western Church in commemoration of the sufferings he had endured during his captivity in France. The seven sorrows are: Simeon's prophecy at the presentation of Jesus in the temple, the flight into

Egypt, the disappearance of the boy Jesus in Jerusalem, the road to Calvary, the crucifixion, the removal from the cross and the entombment.

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS



Be My Disciples will re-start on Sunday, September 10th immediately after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. We hope you had a happy and restful summer, and we will be very happy to see all of you next week.

LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL'S OPEN HOUSE



Loyola High School will be hosting an Open House for prospective students on Saturday, September 16th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. If you are interested in a Catholic education for your son, come and meet the people who make up the Loyola family, tour our school, learn about our sports teams, explore the labs, Fine Arts and Robotics facilities. Loyola ensures that finances are not a barrier to a qualified student attending. We offer Financial Aid to families who could otherwise not afford the school fees. To learn more, please visit loyola.ca.