

Monday, June 14, 2021

Monday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

The Sermon on the Mount continues, with Jesus quoting from Exodus 21:24, “An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”. This was known as the *lex talionis*, or “the law of tit for tat” (The Catholic Study Bible, NAB, Oxford University Press, 1990); the fuller text reads from verse 23 to 25: “But if injury ensues, you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.” Jesus will fulfill His own words, “offer no resistance to one who is evil,” throughout His life and especially during His Passion and ultimately, from the Cross. This love conquers and ends the vicious cycle of violence that previous justice sought as equivalent to the crime. St. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that it is possible to endure “afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts” through the grace of God and the gift of the Holy Spirit. This love continues to be announced until “All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.” Jesus is our salvation! Jesus gives us this gift to love this way!

God Love You!

Fr. Jim Starasovich

