

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the year, A Cycle 2-12-17**

**(notes)**

**As Pope Francis has said so well, we are called to be a joyful band of missionary disciples.**

**As disciples of Jesus, we do not look at the sermon on the mount in today's gospel as laws but as instructions for the journey, instructions on how to be a band of missionary disciples.**

**Fro the Jewish people, the Torah, the law (instruction) was a fence around your home. It gives you a protection. Jesus, a rabbi, interprets the Torah and show us how we might be more faithfully a band of missionary disciples following our Lord and master.**

**The Torah says: Thou shall not kill:**

**Jesus says: Speak ill about others. He is giving a new and often radical interpretation of the law. Often people see reality very differently.**

- **Just watch Fox and MSNBC news: They have radically different world views and are not in dialogue with each other. Recently, in an article in America magazine, the Catholic priest who is chaplain of congress spoke of a need for dialogue. He says that there is no crossing the aisle in congress to dialogue and find a meaningful direction in life. But I the last year or so, he has seen**

more movement across that aisle. And every time he sees someone cross the aisle to talk with someone in the opposing party, he prays for them and for their success.

- Often things are not different in our homes; no one listening to each other. Parents are not listening to their children or children to their parents. Spouses have a challenge talking to one another.
  - One skill I often encourage engaged couples to work on is to repeat back to the other person what the other person is saying.
    - Sign of respect and reverence
    - Not necessarily agreement

Jesus continues his instruction in the gospel. The Torah says: Thou shall not commit adultery. But what I say to you is whoever looks lustfully at another person has already committed adultery with them.

- How often do we violate Jesus' instruction by inappropriately using magazines and the Internet.
- Jesus invites us to unite the beautiful gift of sexuality with family life: He invites us to commit ourselves to build up the human family

- **Yes how often are we watching tv or on their cell phones and have no time for each other.**
- **We need to put cell phones in a pile for a meal or a day. We need to make a guideline that the first one to use a phone at the meal has to do the dishes.**
- **We need to make efforts to spend quality time with family; spouses have a night out; family activities; It is said that many couples break up after their children leave the house. They did a good job in raising their children but they were not growing in their love for each other. They need to take time to nourish their lives like date night and a couples retreat.**
- **The family is to be the reflection of God, a sacrament of the Trinity. You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.**
  - **Many years ago when I was at another parish a woman came to the church and said she wanted to become Catholic. When I asked what caused her to decide, she said that she had watched a family regularly walk down the street live a humble simple life. They lovingly cared for their children and each other. She knew they were churchgoers. She decided that wherever church they went to, she wanted to be there also.**