

Sunday, May 27, 2016  
EXPRESSIONS by Father Ed

## A Human Solution

Even a small parish like St. Timothy's is a microcosm of the world. Mexicans, Filipinos other Asians, Europeans, immigrants new and from the past, young, old, rich, poor, students, homeless, gay, straight, and even transgender feel comfortable at St. Timothy's and consider it their spiritual home. In our parish, we also have a variety of beliefs, opinions, customs and, of course, languages, as well as talents, skills, ministries and ways to participate. This is also true of every Catholic parish in America for we are, by definition, a country of diversity. It is likewise true of the Church, for we are Catholic, that is universal.

The main mission of the Church is to welcome people and to tend to them. Jesus himself set the example in the Gospels, affirming, healing, and blessing everyone he saw and met, demonstrating that no one is outside the embrace of God. The Church sometimes gets side-tracked and off-mission, pursuing other agenda and forsaking its only real purpose of love. The world needs the Church to practice in our contemporary times the same values that Jesus consistently evidenced. The world often justifies hatred, prejudice, violence, war, division, and polarization in order to accomplish its goals, falsely imagining that negative means are quicker and more reliable. In effect, however, these always are moral compromises causing even greater trouble in the long run. Love is the best policy in every situation, though it may be difficult at times to convince people of this.

All problems arise from human choices and, therefore, need a human-based solution. Issues can only be resolved, then, by strategies of love, not ideologies or past traditions which deny the realistic contexts of human life. Jesus certainly understood this. His starting point always was people. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, he taught that everyone is our neighbor. No one is other. We all are family. The well-being of every person is the concern of all. This is a basic matter of human decency, as the Golden Rule implies: "Do unto others as you want them to do unto you." If every single person strived to practice just this the world would immediately improve. Furthermore, according to the Gospel (Matthew 25), each person is an embodiment of Christ himself. Every person counts, therefore, and cannot be dismissed because they are inconvenient, different, or represent a problem. We cannot use people as scapegoats. As individuals and a society, we must learn to accept and deal with people, treating them with dignity and helping them to fit in. Faith and human compassion insist on this.