

June 3, 2008  
Tuesday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18

90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16

Mk 12:13-17

*"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."*

The cunning devices of the Pharisees remind me of modern day politics. The ability of Jesus to keep himself focused and clear in his response challenges me not to get caught up in the tactics of the outside world. The influence of advertising is so strong that it can confuse us as to what is truth and what is false as well as what is reality and what is fantasy. We can so easily be fooled by the rhetoric, by the glitz, by the promise of success and thus happiness. For me, this statement translates into the question that the Daily Examen asks us to consider everyday: *Is this of God or not of God.* In other words does whatever we are considering bring us into deeper unity with God's plan for us; does it make us more compassionate, merciful, just, and forgiving; does it help us to grow up emotionally, psychologically, and intellectually, does it make the world a better place; does it move us in the direction of peacemaking and reconciliation---does it bring the reign of God to fulfillment *on earth as it is in heaven?*

"The church would betray its own love for God and its fidelity to the gospel if it stopped being . . . a defender of the rights of the poor . . . a humanizer of every legitimate struggle to achieve a more just society . . . that prepares the way for the true reign of God in history."

Archbishop Oscar Romero

What is the message of this gospel for you today?