

June 12, 2008  
Thursday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

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

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

1 Kings 18:41-46

Psalms 65:10, 11, 12-13

Matthew 5:20-26

*...go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

Many years ago, at a time that I was experiencing difficulty in a personal relationship, someone gave me the prayer of St Francis. This prayer was not new to me. And, I am embarrassed to admit, I was not really thrilled about receiving it for I knew I was right and I wanted some way to prove that more than I wanted understanding. But, as the old saying goes, be careful what you ask for... While I was not thrilled, I was drawn to this prayer, partly because of the person who gave it to me, partly because I had a fondness for St Francis, and partly because the message tugged at me. Over the years, this prayer has taught much about God's plan for peace and our responsibility to reconcile with our brother. God invites us into a life of peace. Jesus challenges us, even directs us, to reconcile, to let go of grudges, to put relationship ahead of righteousness.

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.  
Amen.*