

August 11, 2008  
Monday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time  
Memorial of St. Clare

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

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

Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c

Psalms 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14

Matthew 17:22-27

*And they were overwhelmed with grief.*

I think of the times I have been overwhelmed with grief—times of personal struggle, times of loss, times of saying good-bye to parents, relatives, and friends. Many years of living brings many moments of pain and loss. But, grief also comes as I look around our present world, and see the consequences of the choices we make about the way we live. I am particularly saddened by the poverty that exists in the world and the subsequent harm it does to the people who live in poverty. I am also saddened by the violence we perpetrate on one another in all forms, and I am saddened by the indifference that exists, as we each tend to put our self before the needs of others. We tend to complain about the ills of the world while we continue to immerse our selves in our personal desires rather than serve the needs of the world. I look at the lives of the saints who dedicated their entire lives to the needs of others, and those who not only served the needs of others but also lived among them in voluntary poverty as they served. Dorothy Day, who began the Catholic Worker movement with Peter Maurin, used to say to those who called her a saint, "Don't call me a saint, I don't want to be dismissed so easily." We tend to look at the saints and call them holy and then exempt our selves because we are not and could not reach that standard. Yet, that is the standard that the gospel calls us to. They are many ways to walk the path, as the lives of the saints show us, but there is only one path. The call of the gospel is to serve, to become like Christ, to be love in human form, and to live a holy life.

*The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us?*

Dorothy Day

As you look around the world today, what saddens you?  
How can you become the change the world needs today?