

August 22, 2008
Friday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time
Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Matthew 22:34-40

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

What is there to say in response to this command? I think that we respond to this command with each behavioral choice we make, not with our words. Words are too easy. Saying yes is too easy. Living it is the measure of a true disciple. The people I know who live it and have lived it are God's gifts to me, for they have taught me what real love is all about, especially in a world that values self-gratification and self-esteem. We all have personal examples of this kind of love—our parents, relatives, friends, teachers...There are also more universally known examples of this kind of love. Recently, I have become reacquainted with a laywoman who exemplifies this type of love. Dorothy Day dedicated her life to serving the poor by adopting a life of voluntary poverty. Her deep abiding love of God led her to love all of God's children. She, along with Peter Maurin, started the Catholic Worker Houses of Hospitality that housed and fed the poor. Her dedication to God was the foundation of every choice she made from her conversion on through her adult life to her death. Her life teaches me that talk is not enough, even giving is not enough. Her life teaches me that we cannot hold ourselves separate from those who are in need. She lived the statement that we are all one in the Body of Christ. There is a story about a great Greek teacher who was asked, "when will we see justice in Athens?" He replied, "We will see justice when the non-oppressed are as indignant about it as the oppressed." Dorothy Day was indignant about injustice and she not only spoke up, she did something about it. She served the poor by living among them. Her life clearly said, "We are all one in the eyes of God." Today, I offer a prayer of a thanksgiving for her and her example of love as we all called to love.