

August 25, 2008
Monday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

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

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

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12

Psalms 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5

Matthew 23:13-22

*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites...
Woe to you, blind guides....*

It seems that today is a good day to examine our hearts for traces of hypocrisy. Where do I say one thing and do another? Where do I fail to stand up to injustice? Where do I excuse wrongdoing in the name of expediency or need? How do I worship false Gods? In what socially acceptable ways do I perpetrate violence? These may seem like questions that don't apply to most of us, yet we are guilty of such behaviors. The acts may be subtle and the intention to harm absent, however, if we examine our behavior closely, we can find many ways we violate the will of God. Today, Jesus calls us to look closely, to open our eyes and our ears, to consider carefully our attitudes and behaviors. The saying about repeating history if we do not learn from it couldn't be truer. If we remain blind to the ways we violate God's call to love, then we will continue to behave in hurtful ways.

The strength of a man's virtue should not be measured by his special exertions, but
by his habitual acts.
Blaise Pascal