

**SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE FESTIVAL OF HOLY CROSS**  
**(OCTOBER 29TH 2006)**

Dearly beloved:

Next Sunday, October 29th is the Seventh Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross. In today's Holy Gospel reading, Jesus draws a parallel between someone who is a murderer and someone who is angry with a fellow Christian.

Here Jesus says: "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient time, 'you shall not murder', and whoever murders shall be liable to judgment. But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment. He then pointed out that there are three ways to murder people without actually killing their body. If you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'you fool', you will be liable to the hell of fire".

Now we can see that these three attitudes are the exact opposite of love for others. But anger should not turn into murderous anger. Often churches are not very good at dealing with conflict. Jesus says that Christians will be judged by their response to God's grace. This does not mean that it is never right to be angry. Jesus was angry at injustice, sin, unbelief and the exploitation of others. We need to be very careful that we get angry for the right reasons.

Having experienced what God's love is like, we can ask the Holy Spirit to change our anger into love before the sun goes down that night. Instead of rejecting and pushing people away as dirt, we are ready for St. Paul's words, 'welcome one another, therefore, just as the Messiah has welcomed you'. And we never view others as ignorant. In a church congregation like ours, each person is equally important, and his or her opinions are to be heard and taken seriously.

In Lord's prayer, which Jesus gave to his disciples soon after this teaching, we say, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us".

**Please read the following Bible verses, in preparation for this Sunday's commemoration.**

**Bible readings for Sunday, October 29th 2006.**

**(Seventh Sunday After the Festival of Holy Cross)**

**Before Holy Qurbana:**

<b>Exodus</b>	-	<b>12: 43-51</b>
<b>Job</b>	-	<b>23: 1-7</b>
<b>Isaiah</b>	-	<b>52: 1-15</b>

**Holy Qurbana**

General Epistles:	<b>I Peter</b>	-	<b>2: 15-17</b>
Epistles of St. Paul:	<b>I Corinthians</b>	-	<b>6: 9-11</b>
Holy Gospel:	<b>St. Matthew</b>	-	<b>5: 21-16</b>

With prayers,  
Thomas Alex