

Homily. 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year. C. 9/10 July 2022.

We can't do much about the supply chain crisis, except perhaps not rushing the toilet paper aisle at the supermarket and maybe growing some veggies in our back yard. Likewise, there isn't much that we can do about the wars in Ukraine and elsewhere except pray for peace, work for justice and support refugees fleeing from these conflicts. As for the weather, that's always been a tough one. Honestly, there's little that we can do about it either, though we can do many small and not so small things to mitigate the changing climate and, of course, we can offer help to people suffering distress from flooding, fires, drought and other calamities.

Beyond these issues though, there is another thing in short supply which we can all do something about. I'm speaking of the critical love, kindness, compassion and caring shortage, especially urgent in times of distress, the type of loving kindness and generosity that goes beyond the taboos of race, religion and all made up rules and borders. This is what the Good Samaritan story is about; actively helping whomever we can, when and where ever we can. Jesus says that this is what being a true and loving neighbour means. He says that this is the way our love of God takes flesh, becoming real, perfectly fulfilling all of God's will for us.

Knowing this is easy. What we have to do is already in our mouths and hearts. Doing it isn't, and Jesus doesn't pretend that it is. It means seeing, heeding and stopping, delaying our plans, getting down from our mount getting involved and dirty of life and the mess of other peoples issues. This is what the Jerusalem Temple Priest and Levite Temple helper wouldn't do. Like them, and perhaps like you, I was taught to keep my

beak out of other people's business. It's a good rule of thumb, except when it isn't, which is when people are helpless and desperate. When we know that we can help with our listening ears, our caring touch and our kindness, time and generosity, then loving demands that we do so.

Joining up the dots now, our worship of God and our Eucharist proclaim that like Christ we are people who do see, do stop and do get involved in helping and serving anyone in need without tallying up the cost. We are the people who do risk putting our beak in when it's as clear as day that those around us need us and what we can offer. We choose to do as the Samaritan did and as Christ does, loving others as neighbours, because that's who we are, the Samaritan sisters and brothers of the Lord today.