**FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEB 26-27, 2022**

Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 84)**

Lk 6:39-45

Jesus told his disciples a parable,
“Can a blind person guide a blind person?
Will not both fall into a pit?
No disciple is superior to the teacher;
but when fully trained,
every disciple will be like his teacher.
Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye,
but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?
How can you say to your brother,
‘Brother, let me remove the splinter in your eye,’
when you do not ever notice the wooden beam in your own eye?
You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first;
then you will see clearly
to remove the splinter in your brother’s eye.

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit,
nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.
For every tree is known by its own fruit.
For people do not pick figs from thornbushes,
nor do they gather grapes from brambles.
A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces
good,
but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil;
for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.”

**Intercession**

For our parish community, that inspired by the Holy Spirit, we might bear good fruit through acts of charity, generosity, and love.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

How do we know someone loves us? Is it through the sweet words they say to us, the grand promises they make? While these things can be part of the equation, we come to learn that love can only prove itself through deeds. We know someone loves us not when they *say* they love us, but when they *show* they love us—by prioritizing us, caring for us, and seeking our good, even when it might mean making a sacrifice.

If this applies to us determining if someone loves us, it can also help us reflect on whether we truly love others. Do the things we say we believe about love, giving generously, and serving others lead to concrete deeds in our lives—the “good fruit” Christ talks about in today’s Gospel—or do they tend to not translate into action?

It can be difficult to tell! But the Lord gives us opportunities to put love into action each and every day—in our family, our workplace, and our wider community. As a parish, we actually have one of those opportunities before us today: the chance to contribute to our diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal. This is a concrete opportunity to not only give generously, but also to contribute to the “good fruit” that our diocese is producing today, sharing the love of the Lord with so many who desire to receive it. Ask the Lord to ask how he’s inviting you to put your love into action today.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Jesus reminds us that a good tree produces good fruit. Consider putting your love and generosity into action by supporting our diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal today.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Orange tree

Text: “A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit.”

Copy: Through your support of our diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal, you can share the love of the Lord – and the “good fruit” it produces – with those who desire to receive it.