

IF YOUR BROTHER SINS AGAINST YOU

go and tell him

SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION

Dear St. Joseph Parishioners and Visitors,

Jesus gives us a manual for love today.

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him."

Notice what he does not say. He does not say, go and tell everyone else about him. He does not say, post about it. He says, go to him. Alone. Quietly.

That is so hard. It is easier to gossip than to talk. It is easier to cancel than to correct. But Jesus wants to keep the family together. The first step is always a private conversation, not a public humiliation.

And if he listens? You have won your brother. Not won the argument. Won the brother. The goal is never to be right. The goal is to bring your brother back.

Then Jesus says something beautiful. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there.

We usually hear that at prayer meetings. But look at the context. He says it right after talking about correction and forgiveness. What does it mean? It means Jesus is present not only when we pray together nicely, but when we do the hard work of reconciliation together. When two people sit down and forgive each other honestly, Jesus is sitting there with them.

The Church is not a museum of perfect people. It is a family that learns how to forgive.

So this week, is there someone you need to go to? Not to attack, but to win back? Go quietly. Go humbly. Jesus promises he will go with you.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,
Pastor

