

**February 19, 2017**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

From the Desk of Rev. Msgr. Hugh J. Corrigan:

Why are we human beings so aggressive? The best explanation so far is that it is built into our genetic code, the result of millions of years evolution. We would not exist today if our ancestors had not developed this ability to fight back against predators that wanted to eat us. For a long time the predators were non-humans. This genetic code was functional for our survival. When we won that battle, we could not turn this aggression off. We started to kill other human beings for many different reasons. It became dysfunctional. In fact we may destroy one another. Looking back a million years from now, it might be said "Humans had their time on earth. They lasted only 55,000 years. They destroyed themselves and most of the earth."

In this scenario, today's Gospel " Turn the other cheek. Love your enemy, etc." are fairy tales for children. History has taught us that nations will always have wars. Tribes will never turn the other cheek but defend themselves to the death. Individuals will never love their enemies.

A possible solution is to change our genetic code when we are still in the womb. This new code would be passed down to future generations. This alteration of our genetic code is no longer science fiction but a real scientific possibility.

Or we can keep trying to modify our behavior to offset our worst instincts. This might happen not only on an individual level but on a world level. What are the chances of this happening? Part of me says it will never happen. Another part of me says it might be possible-with the grace of God.

**Dates to Remember:** Saturday, March 18th at 1:00pm: Yonkers St. Patrick Day Parade on McLean Avenue. We will march as a parish.  
April 24-26; A mission for neighboring parishes including St. Mary's. Details will follow.

**Collection :** the collection for last Sunday, February 12, ,2017 was \$ 3,461.00  
The 2nd collection this Sunday will be our monthly collection to help with our Property Insurance.

**Parish News!**

Children are to line up in the Parish Hall between 9:15 and 9:20 am. Classes start promptly at 9:30 am. The Confirmation students will have their Confirmation Retreat in the Parish Hall on February 23, 2017 at 9:30 - 2:30pm. Reconciliation for those children in the first year of Communion Class will be on February 25th at 1:00 p m in the Chapel .

Presidents' Day : please be advised that the Rectory Office will be closed on February 20th in honor of Presidents' Day.

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

Today Jesus continues his invitation to us to go beyond the letter of the law by calling us to go beyond our human tendencies toward hatred and revenge. In a world where demands for payback and "gotcha" moments are all too common, we are encouraged to lower the temperature of the rhetoric and reflect the heart of our merciful and loving God. If last year's Year of Mercy is to mean anything, we are called to continue to show God's mercy and forgiveness all through our lives.

**First Reading** Leviticus 19:1-2

Moses urges the Israelites to holiness. They must bear no hatred in their hearts. Rather they must follow this law; love your neighbor as yourself.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 110:3;

"The Lord is kind and merciful!"

**Second Reading** 1Corinthians 3:16-23:

We are all temples of the Holy Spirit, and as such belong to God. We must never think that we are self-sufficient, or that we alone rule our lives. We must beware the wisdom of the world, which is not of God. We belong to Christ and therefore must live in Christ and depend on Christ.

**Gospel** Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus tells us that we must return good for evil and love for hate. We must go the extra mile and love our enemies. We must strive to be perfect, just as God is perfect. This will prove that we belong to the Father.

**Special Intentions for this week**

Sunday February 19, 2017

7:30 For the Parishioners

9:00 Onesimo Tovar

Joaquina Tovar

11:00 Domingos Manuel Rodrigues

Eduardo & Esther Rodrigues

Monday, February 20, 2017

12:05 Louis Feliz

Estel Feliz

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

12:05 Cecelia Ann Favareau

Alice De Waters

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

12:05 Gary Villaverde (L)

Florence Foy & Margaret Newill

Thursday, February 23, 2017

7:00 Fermin Caceres

Maria Melendo

Friday, February 24, 2017

12:05 Manora Reyes (L)

Norah Estavez

Saturday February 25, 2017

5:00 Ayo Karimu

Francisco & Claudia Dougan

7:30 Antonio Melendez

Maria Melendez

Sunday February 26, 2017

7:30 For the Parishioners

9:00 In Thanksgiving

Joaquina Tovar

11:00 Elizabeth & George F. Russ

And Son George

Jenny Brown