

JUNE 18, 2018



# TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



GENESIS 3:9-15

PSALM 138:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-5:1

MARK 3:28-35

## REFLECTION

Who do you consider family? Do you have friends so close to you that they seem like family? In this Gospel reading, Jesus monumentally redefines family as “whoever does the will of God” (v. 35). This definition is very important to us as Christians! It took me a long time to notice the way that we refer to one another as brothers and sisters, and I find it most noticeable in the Mass. Have you ever heard the priest pray that God would “listen graciously to the prayers of this family” (Eucharistic Prayer III)? This particular prayer first struck me when I attended Mass in a small chapel at college. Gathered in a small, beautiful space with friends, acquaintances, and strangers who attended the same university and professed the same faith, I was struck with wonder and awe at how *right* this description of the community gathered at Mass was. We are family! And whether you come to Mass with your biological family, a friend, classmates, youth group, or show up solo, you are with your Christian family, too. In fact, the First Reading, from Genesis, tells part of the tale of our beginnings as a human family. To this day, we are Adam and Eve, sinners who tasted of the fruit, ensnared by the serpent, with God placing enmity between us. Conflict is bound to arise—it is basically guaranteed in our relationships. However, God calls us to live as family, in community, and for us to be bound to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray *with* one another, *for* one another, and hold each other accountable for our faith, actions, and words.

## ACTION

St. Thérèse of Lisieux had a method, her “little way,” that served to help her do God’s will in her religious community. She wrote in her autobiography about how she often fell short in handling the challenge of community living. Her “little way” focused on God’s love through mercy and forgiveness, and acknowledging her own daily shortcomings. Therese committed herself to doing small things each and every day for the good of others—and this is our challenge, too! This can consist of doing a small task, giving up time for someone, or even holding our tongue when we don’t have anything nice to say. More than anything, St. Thérèse tried to show as much love as possible for all of her Christian family, whether she got along with them or not.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Call to mind the times that you have felt God’s love through another person. What did they do to cause you to feel this love? Who do you find it difficult to show love to? How can you show the love of a brother or sister to these people this week?