

Reflection Wednesday Week 19 2020

Caring for each other is common sense but in real life not always easy and, in some cases, very difficult. We can fall out with family members for all sorts of reasons. The challenge is not to seek some kind of revenge or recompense but to be ready to help those we don't get on with in moments of difficulty or crisis. It is said that if you smile at your enemy, he/she will spend the rest of the day wondering what you are up to!! But Jesus is not just concerned about the individual but the whole family, the whole community.

Story: Being a strong wife and mother Diana often hid her deep pain and suffering from those around her. In the weeks and months following her husband's cancer diagnosis, Diana would search for "hiding" places where she could let the uncontrollable waterfalls of painful tears flow. After her husband died, car parks were Diana's safe-haven for grief. One day, as she was about to place her order in a McDonald's drive-thru, the wave of sadness hit her like a tidal wave. She could barely catch her breath and started crying. She was stuck in the coffee line where all the workers were young, happy and listening to music. There was no way out.

The server at the window handed Diana an iced coffee with a sweet and simple note scribbled on the plastic lid. *'We love you.'* The server didn't know Diana's pain or her story, but she knew she was hurting and couldn't fix it. Diana thought, *"She wanted me to know I wasn't alone. And that whatever trial I was going through, that there were people out there who cared about me. That regardless of knowing all the details, they cared anyway."*

Pope Francis *"Love of neighbour corresponds to the mandate and the example of Christ if it is based on a true love of God. It is thus possible for the Christian, through dedication, to enable others to feel the tenderness of the heavenly Father,"*

Another short story . . .

My neighbours have been married 20 years

Unfortunately, I've heard them have the same argument a lot lately

Him: You're cheating! Don't deny it, I can see through your behaviour!

Her: Well you beat me all the time, and I've had enough!

. . . **Maybe they should play something other than Monopoly. . .???**