

Hurricane Harvey has left its impression on the Texas coast as well as our country. Lives have been erased, dreams have been washed away and tensions are high. Interesting enough, our scripture for this week end, the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary time gives guidance to us as we address the situation at hand.

In St. Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear a message of communal love. "I urge you brothers and sisters to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice." Who of us here have not seen numerous pictures of people sacrificing their bodies to make sure others will be safe. None of us should feel that we exist on this planet alone. We all have stories, we all have struggles, and we all have moments when we need the help of others in order to get through rough patches. If any of us had been on the Texas shoreline when Harvey made landfall and we watched the flood waters rise; washing

away homes, and loved ones; would it not be our hope that others would come forward to offer assistance until we could get back on our feet.

A perfect example is J.J. Watts. Houston is his community and he decided to set up an online fundraiser giving it \$100,000.00 of his own money in the hope that people would double it with their donations. As of today to everyone's surprise, his fundraiser is nearing 10 Million dollars. 86,000 people have donated money in order to help the Houston area recover.

A story of good Samaritans who came forth to assist and help people; That is the message of our gospel this week end. It is as though we have an opportunity to live the very words of Matthew's gospel. The greatest sign of love that we can offer is to keep the victims of Harvey in our prayers

and to support the relief efforts that are being organized.

This week end's bulletin has a list of charities provided by our Diocese that can get money where it is needed. It is time for us to deny ourselves and follow in Christ's footsteps.

As we pray for these people who have been seriously affected by this hurricane, I ask you to consider the words of this verse by Arnold Watts.

THE BEAUTIFUL COLOR OF LOVE

What color is God asked the child with skin so fair.
Is he white like me, does he have light hair.

Is God dark like me, asked the child with skin of golden hue;
Has he hair that is dark and curly, are his eyes black or blue.

I think God is red like me, the Indian boy is heard to say;
He wears a crown of feathers, and turns our nights to day.

Each of us knows that God is there, in all the colors above;
But be sure of this, the one color he is, is the beautiful color of love.

So when your soul goes to heaven, when your life comes to an end; he will be waiting and his hand to you he will extend.

There will be no colors in heaven, everyone will be the same. You will only be judged by your earthly deeds, not your color or your name.

So when your time comes, and you see God in his heaven above; then you will only see the color that counts, the color of love.