

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR B

October 11, 2009

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: WISDOM 7:7-11

PSALM 90

2ND READING: HEBREWS 4: 12-13

GOSPEL: MARK 10: 17-30

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One of the professors we had in Rome told us he had spent some time working with Mother Teresa in India. He called her a “tough cookie.” She had no time for nonsense. One day he was in the home for children and saw one of the Sisters getting ready to clean the sores all over a young girl’s body. The Sister knelt down and took a sponge from a pail and reached toward the child. The child grabbed the sponge out of the Sister’s hand and threw it into the bucket splashing the Sister. Sister tried again and was trying a third time when Mother Teresa walked into the ward and saw the child grab the sponge and splash water all over the hapless nun. Mother Teresa went over and told the Sister something and the Sister left. Mother Teresa knelt down and tried and the little girl did the same thing, this time splashing Mother. The professor thought, “Ah, now I’ll see how Mother Teresa handles this little brat.” Mother Teresa wiped the suds off her face, fixed her sari, and just knelt there and looked into the eyes of the child. The professor thought this moment went on for about five minutes. Mother and the child just stayed in place looking into each other’s eyes. Finally, Mother Teresa hugged the little girl. They hugged for another long moment. Then, Mother Teresa bathed the child.

The extraordinary perception and exquisite sensitivity of Mother Teresa came from the great compassion she had in her heart. She read the little girl’s heart, her fear, her need and treated the child as though the little one were the only little one in the crowded room. That’s wisdom!

That's the way Jesus was. He read the human heart with piercing clarity. Jesus knew what hurt people. He knew then and he knows now. The Lord is fine tuned to the hates and loves; disappointments and delights, brokenness , and togetherness, the fears, joys, and sorrows of each of us. As St. John wrote in his Gospel, "No one had to tell him about human nature, he already knew all about it." With him all things are possible. With him we find the courage, the strength, the confidence we lack in any situation. With him we find that we are known, understood and loved. One day we will each have our opportunity to look right into the eyes of Jesus of Nazareth as that little child looked into Mother Teresa's eyes and we will see what the child saw. We can trust him; he will not hurt us but will help us. Like Mother Teresa he will embrace us, hold us and when we are ready, he will cleanse us and welcome us home. He is our Good News!