

## 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday Bulletin

The early Hebrew people were nomads and lived for the most part in the desert. The main part of their diet was sheep. However, there was a time when a great drought overtook the countries of the Middle East and countless thousands died. The Egyptians were wise and saved wheat which people from different countries came to buy. The Hebrews came and ended up in slavery. They had little food; they were treated like slaves. They worked long hours under very adverse conditions. At one point the people cried out to God, and he sent Moses to guide them.

However, God warned the Jewish people as they left the Egyptian land not to treat the people who dealt with them in the way that they were treated in Egyptian.

The gospel passage recalls the two great laws of the covenant: love God, love your neighbor. Jesus' instruction to the people of his time was similar to the instruction to the people of earlier times.

One of the great problems that we are wrestling with today is immigration. We forget that once we were the immigrants of the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Catholics from Ireland, Italy and other countries were abused by nativists and the KKK. Catholics were forced into ghettos. They had low paying jobs and poor housing. Years ago, the KKK tried to take over Notre Dame, but the football team chased them out.

People come to our country in search of jobs and security. Right now, Congress is trying to figure out what can be done for the 800,000 or more young adults, who came to his country in search of a better life. They have gone to school; they have jobs; they are paying taxes. However, they have no paper work. They face deportation if something is not done.

Our political leaders want to build walls to keep people out. Yet we are in search of people, who will work on our farms or work in fast farm places. If we bring farm laborers in, we offer them poor housing. Our Catholic Housing group offers help and assistance to farm workers in Burlington, for example.

God's words in the Old Testament during the time that Exodus was written are also important today. Do not treat others in the manner that some of our ancestors were treated. Loving God and neighbor means we make a special effort to reach out to those in need and help them to the best of our ability.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Kenneth Haydock, Pastor