

## PASTOR'S CORNER



*Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven.*

Much of the Old Law was concerned with external acts: you shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery – and the *righteousness* sought by *the scribes and Pharisees* lay in fulfilling all those commandments. But Christ reveals that even the Old Law intended something more: that indeed, the fulfillment of the law is not in changing our outward actions but in changing our inward disposition. The problem is not that we kill each other – the problem is that we hate each other and want to kill each other – the problem is that we nurse anger with each other; not the anger we naturally feel at some unjust action but an anger at the person themselves, an anger that desires or seeks the other's harm. The follower of Christ is not someone who simply refrains from killing; the follower of Christ is one who lets go of grievances. Because as long as we hold on to anger towards another we cannot *enter into the Kingdom of heaven*; we cannot enter into that peace and union if we harbor strife and division.

But still more than that – the disciple of Christ is called to actively do their part to bring about that peace: *if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother.* He does not say, 'If you have a something against your brother go make sure he knows what he has done.' We need to be principally concerned with how we may have offended and seek that reconciliation – if we do not we may encourage our brother to cling to anger in his own heart and if we have not settled from our side, we will stand before the just Judge, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

And so let us make the effort to let go of grievances and anger we may carry – to readily forgive even as we have been forgiven. And if anyone has anything against us, let us seek reconciliation – first with God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then, if possible, with the one we have offended as well. Because it's only in that reconciliation that we become one body in Christ even as we participate in his body in the Blessed Sacrament, the foretaste of the eternal *Kingdom of heaven*.

In Christ, through Mary,

*Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP*